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MARCH 5

Stalin calls all-party meet on delimitation

SOUTH » PAGE 11

UKRAINE WAR

U.S. sides with Russia at UNSC

WORLD » PAGE 18

EX-CJI LALIT'S VIEW

'Simultaneous polls Bill will fail legal challenge'

NEWS » PAGE 15

DATA POINT

India sole nation to curb Net over communal unrest

Most of these shutdowns occurred in Manipur

OPINION » PAGE 13

RANJI FINAL

High-flying Kerala takes on Vidarbha

SPORT » PAGE 20

NEARBY

Suspension of overworked RTC staffer set aside

BENGALURU
The High Court has found no fault with a constable of the State transport corporation sleeping during duty hours as he was compelled to work for double shifts (16 hours) in 24 hours every day for 60 days without break. » Page 6

Banu Mushtaq on Booker Prize longlist

LONDON
Karnataka-based writer and lawyer Banu Mushtaq's short story collection *Heart Lamp*, translated from Kannada to English by Deepa Bhasthi, has been longlisted for the International Booker Prize.

» Page 18

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 7

Slush and water seepage hinder rescue operation

Around 5,000 litres of water seeping into the tunnel every minute; rescue agencies find the last 50-metre stretch fully filled with mud, debris; Border Roads Organisation to join operations today

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

Seepage of water and slush are hampering the operation to locate the eight persons trapped 14 km inside the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana since Saturday morning.

The joint teams of multiple agencies at the site said on Tuesday that any attempt to cross the last 50-metre stretch, which is completely filled with mud and debris, could endanger the lives of the rescue personnel.

Hitting a hurdle: Rescue teams at the SLBC project site at Domalapenta village in Telangana on Tuesday. NAGARA GOPAL

'Site unstable'

Speaking to newspersons at the site after a review meeting with all the agencies involved in the operation, State Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the tunnel around the collapse spot had become unstable. Seepage of water inside the tunnel was assessed to be about 3,000 litres to 5,000 litres per minute, which was huge. This, coupled with the silt, was making the task very difficult for the rescue teams, he said.

Two more agencies – the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) – will join the rescue operations from Wednesday. Already nine agencies, including the Army and the Navy, are at the site.

The Minister said that even the divers of the Navy's special forces unit Marcos were unable to wade through the slush. The Navy divers can wade through muddy water comprising 70% water and 30% slush. However, in the case of SLBC, the percentage of slush was found to be more than 70%, making it highly difficult for them, Mr. Kumar said.

The Minister and other agencies said efforts were on to dewater and remove slush to reach the spot where two engineers, two technical staffers and four workers are trapped after a part of the roof collapsed. A tunnel boring machine is also stuck inside.

The samples of slush were also sent for geological tests to find out whether removal of the debris around the tunnel boring machine could lead to further caving-in.

Delhi lost ₹2,000 crore due to excise policy: CAG

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Audit shock: Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra holding the CAG report, which was tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The Delhi exchequer lost ₹2,002 crore in revenue due to the poor implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy, 2021-22 by the previous Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi, said a Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) report tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday.

"These implementation issues of the new policy (Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22) led to a loss of revenue of approximately ₹2,002 crore. Excise Policy aimed to eradicate sale of spurious liquor and check bootlegging. However, important measures which were planned in the policy like setting up of liquor testing laboratories, batch testing for rigorous quality assurance, and monitoring and regulation through creation of a dedicated post were not ensured," the CAG report said.

AAP chief and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, senior AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia are among those who were arrested and jailed on charges of corruption in the excise policy. The two top leaders are currently out on bail.

'Deliberate obstruction'

Responding to the CAG report, the AAP blamed the revenue shortfall on the "deliberate obstruction" of the excise policy by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). "Based on CAG report, there must be investigation against the L-G, CBI, and ED to determine why the government exchequer was made to incur a ₹2,000-crore loss," senior AAP leader Atishi said.

The CAG report was tabled in the Assembly by new Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

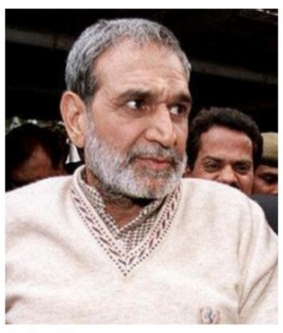
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Sajjan Kumar gets life term in 1984 riot case

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday awarded life imprisonment to former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in connection with the murder of a man and his son during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The sentence came over 40 years after the incident while Mr. Kumar, now 80, is serving a life term in another case pertaining to the anti-Sikh riots.

Special judge Kaveri Baweja of Rouse Avenue Courts said that it is clear from the evidence put on record that victims in this case not only witnessed the brutal killings of their family members at the hands of the rioting mob which the convict was a part of but they were also witness to the burning and destruction of their dwelling house and looting of their belongings.



Sajjan Kumar

"The helplessness of the victims and the lack of any support whatsoever from the neighbours and also the police has also been established from their uncontroverted depositions," the court said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

SC reinstates Bihar MLC Sunil Kumar

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday reinstated Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Sunil Kumar Singh to the Bihar Legislative Council, setting aside the Election Commission notification for a byelection to his seat.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant concluded Mr. Singh's expulsion following his remarks against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was "highly excessive and disproportionate".

"The expulsion of a member from the House constitutes a higher degree of deprivation and must only be sustained in exceptional circumstances," Justice Surya Kant observed.

Noting that the main function of a legislator is to act as a reflection of the people's will in a representative democracy, Justice Kant said imposing a disproportionate punishment not only undermines democratic values by depriving the member from participating in House proceedings, but also affects the voters, who remain unrepresented.

Sunil Kumar Singh

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Supreme Court refuses to intervene in corruption case against Kumaraswamy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to intervene in a case accusing Union Minister of Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy of misusing his office as then Karnataka Chief Minister for pecuniary gains and illegally denotifying two parcels of land measuring over two acres at Hallage Vaderahalli in 2007.

"Why did you suddenly do this denotification... It has to be investigated... There may be no bad intentions, but it has to be investigated," Justice Dipankar Datta, heading a Bench comprising Justice Rajesh Bindal, addressed senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and advocate Balaji Srinivasan, appearing for Mr. Kumaraswamy.

H.D. Kumaraswamy

The plots in question were acquired from the owner and possession handed over to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) in September 1999.

Subsequently, according to the State, the owner executed sale deeds in favour of third parties in contravention of the Karnataka Land (Restriction on Transfer) Act, 1991. Following which the owner had given a representation to the Chief Minister to denotify the land.

The request was strongly objected to by the BDA in a communication in December 2005.

The State's case was that Mr. Kumaraswamy allegedly used his powers as the Chief Minister to issue a denotification order on October 1, 2007 without placing the request before the de-notification committee.

Private complaint

A private complaint was filed and a Special Judge trying cases against MPs and MLAs ordered it to be investigated by the Lokayukta Police in 2012 under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Karnataka Land (Restriction of Transfer) Act.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

You can't improve the Indian national team straight away

Lambert, in a new role with Dortmund, emphasises the importance of quality footballing education for kids and how it could eventually lead to improvement at the senior level; he also looks back on his time with the Bundesliga club and explains how hard work always outweighs everything, including talent

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

INTERVIEW

PAUL LAMBERT

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Borussia Dortmund legend Paul Lambert, who had marked and successfully contained Zinedine Zidane in the 1996-97 Champions League final to help the Black and Yellow defeat Juventus 3-1, was on his first visit to India for a short training camp with the Murugappa Youth Football Academy (MYFA) at the end of January.

Lambert, who has joined the BVB Group as the Technical Director of Southeast Asia, came to India to train budding footballers at MYFA, which has a tie-up with Dortmund.

A small group of kids from the Australian club Wynnum Wolves, which has a partnership with the German club, were also in town to participate in the camp at the Vellayan Chettiyar School ground in Chennai.

In a chat with *The Hindu*, Lambert gave a lowdown on the training camp, spoke about the way forward for the Indian national football team, revealed being approached to join the Indian Super League, and more. Excerpts:

On his new role as the BVB Technical Director of Southeast Asia and first visit to India

Being part of the BVB group and Wynnum Wolves FC has given me the opportunity to come here for the first time to India. It's been a good experience. You never know what to expect when you come into a country that you've never been to, and from that aspect, it's been very satisfying.

I've just joined the club as the Technical Director of Southeast Asia, which is a really good role. I am happy to help the club the best I can internationally, to help grassroots football and academy kids to try and be good footballers.

I'll be travelling quite often, which I'm looking forward to. I'll be based in Australia, where I will work with Wynnum Wolves in partnership with Borussia Dortmund.

Agenda for the training camp

There's no pressure, no stress. It's for the kids to have fun and learn from the coaches, and then the coaches maybe can learn from me and the people who have come over from Wynnum Wolves. That's the key.

There's nothing other than the kids seeing a different way or hearing a different voice. They're integrating with the Australian kids as well, which is important.

Football is a great game to bring people together and that's what it has done.

I think it has been a great experience for the Australian kids also. This is the sort of surface (mud pitch) I grew up (playing on) at times.

It gives you a great feeling because when you go on to (play on) grass. To learn on this is a good thing, especially for the Australian kids who hadn't probably known what playing on this was like.

So, I think that's the big talking point for me. You have to adjust to playing on this and then when you go on to grass, it becomes better.

Meeting with the Bengaluru FC team management

Believe it or not, I had a meeting with the Bengaluru FC guys a few years ago in London and they asked if I would be interested in coming over. It was maybe five or six years ago, and I declined the offer then.

I knew people like David James and Robbie Fowler had come over (for coaching in the ISL), but for me, it just wasn't the right thing at that time.

On how to improve the Indian national team

I think it comes from the grassroots, you have to start there. You're not going to change somebody who is 26, 27, or 28 years old. They've got their habits already, the football is there already.

It's the grassroots level that is the key to any country. National teams being good comes from the grassroots - from the coaches and educators and the lifestyle.

To get one player through the scheme, I think that's the biggest thing. Kids have to play football from five or six or eight years old. You have to be really disciplined to be a sportsperson, especially in football.

You can't improve the Indian national team straight away, but maybe you can make things better starting from the grassroots level.

About the Indian Super League

I know how it works as a league. I think you become stronger and stronger with the more you play and gain experience. But as I said before, it comes from the grassroots. The more kids you get coming through to play professional football, the better.

Possible coaching role in the ISL

No, because I really enjoy what I do now. I've just started the new role and I have to thank the club (Borussia Dortmund) for giving me this opportunity.

It is a special club, where I had a really good time as a footballer. And now they have given me an opportunity and it's a privilege to work for them.

On the love he receives from the Dortmund fans

The games are all about fans. What I found about Dortmund was it was very similar to where I was born, Glasgow. Both cities are filled with really hard-working people.

Dortmund is a big area for the steel industry and Glasgow obviously had shipbuilders associated with the steel industry as well.

So both cities were really similar. I knew the biggest part of their DNA was hard work. It wasn't the talent.

Talent is a real minimal factor. If you're hard-working, it outweighs a lot of things. In terms of similarities, Glasgow and Dortmund were virtually neck and neck.

And I knew if I worked really hard, most of them would like me, that was always the key to it.

I played one game, two games, three, four, and all of a sudden I became a mainstay just through sheer effort, hard work, and character. And that has never left me to this day.

Hard work is the biggest lesson in anybody's life, not just in football. It's hard work to get to the top. It just doesn't come easy. If you practice and practice and practice, it comes.

I think that's why the foundation (MYFA) is a great thing. It takes people off the streets, it gives them education. India is a massive country.

For kids, the opportunity is great. Maybe not as big to go to Borussia Dortmund, but to have a life elsewhere in Asia or somewhere else. I think that's the biggest takeaway (from the visit) for me.

On the defensive midfielder's role in the modern age and the best players in that position today

Every coach has a different way of how they want to play with the role, whether you're defensive and you stop the counter-attacks or you join in more and more. But you've always got to have them because they're important to the team.

I think it depends on the coach as to what type of defensive midfielder he's looking for. Rodri (Manchester City) was one the best players in that position before he got injured.

I think (Alexis) McAllister is a really good player at Liverpool, he's a fantastic footballer. I think their [defensive midfielder's] game intelligence is really high, they can manipulate the ball how they want to do it.

Push for autonomy to proposed corporations to collect taxes

House panel also recommends a host of measures to bring in revenue parity between multiple corporations

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Contradicting the provisions of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, tabled by the State government in the Legislative Assembly in July 2024, the Joint Legislature Committee that examined the Bill and submitted its report on Monday, has proposed that all the corporations carved out of the existing civic body be given full autonomy in tax collection. It has also recommended carving out multiple corporations based on population density and revenue generation potential to ensure revenue parity.

The Bill had proposed that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), chaired by the Chief Minister, at the pan-city level, collect all taxes and redistribute it among multiple corporations to ensure parity. This was contrary to the recommendations of the BBMP Restructuring Committee, formed to restructure the city's governance. Now, the Joint Legislature Committee has gone back to the recommendation made by the restructuring committee.

Currently, Mahadevapura is the highest tax-contributing zone under the BBMP limits. FILE PHOTO

House panel chairman Rizwan Arshad, MLA, told *The Hindu* that the committee had made several recommendations to promote equity among corporations and address revenue disparities.

As a primary measure, the government must consider population density and revenue generation capacity when carving out new corporations. The State has been recommended to ensure a balanced distribution of revenue-generating areas. For instance, high-revenue pockets in Mahadevapura zone, currently the highest tax-contributing area, may be distributed among multiple corporations rather than confined to one.

Additionally, Mr. Arshad emphasised the need to integrate around 25 panchayats, presently outside the BBMP limits, into the corporations during restructuring. "We have identified panchayats that have undergone rapid urbanisation. Some of these areas have residential villas priced between ₹5 crore and ₹10 crore, demonstrating significant revenue potential. Their inclusion will help offset revenue shortfalls in corporations receiving fewer high-revenue pockets," he explained.

The panel also recommended incentivising wards to enhance revenue collection. If a ward increases its tax collection through arrears recovery, assessing under-taxed properties, or expanding the tax net, a portion of the additional revenue can be allocated for local development. For example, if a ward increases tax collection by ₹100, it may be allowed to utilise ₹10 or ₹20 for its own improvements.

Despite these measures, if any corporation faces a revenue deficit, the committee suggests that the State provide financial assistance through grants based on necessity. However, such corporations must submit annual plans to improve tax collection. Additionally, corporations will have autonomy to develop their own revenue-boosting programmes.

Word of caution

V. Ravichandar, member of the restructuring committee, however, sounded a word of caution. "In a multi-corporation structure, one or two corporations may experience revenue deficit. The State's annual grants should be allocated to address such shortfall and fund capital projects. However, if grants are used to cover revenue deficits, corporations must be required to enhance their tax collection and control expenses. State support should not become a continuous financial bailout," he said.

Sale of contaminated injectable drugs: Centre yet to respond to Karnataka's letter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Although Karnataka last week wrote to the Union Health Minister to check the sale of contaminated injectable drugs in the Indian market, there has been no response from the Centre so far.

Following nine injectable drugs manufactured outside the State failing the sterility test in Karnataka's government labs between January 1, 2025, and February 16, 2025, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao had written to Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda to withdraw such drugs from the market across the country.

Mr. Rao's letter stated that "although Karnataka's Health Department has been instructed to take adequate steps to ensure the contaminated injectable drugs are no longer sold within Karnataka, it is highly likely that other contaminated drugs manufactured by these companies are being sold in other States in India. Hence it is essential to withdraw such drugs from the market across the country."

'Lack of interest'

Condemning the Centre's lack of interest in crucial matters pertaining to people's health, Mr. Rao told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that he would pursue the matter with the Union Health Minister. "If required, I will go and meet him personally. Not just the recent letter, the Centre has not responded to our previous letter too. I had written to him in January urging that the Centre should introduce legislative reforms to help improve the quality of drugs not just in Karnataka but across the country," he said. He said Karnataka had been repeatedly flagging the issue ever since the five maternal deaths were reported in the Ballari district hospital.

"Following our complaint, although the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) stopped the operations of Paschim Banga Pharmaceuticals based in West Bengal, whose contaminated injectables caused the deaths of five young mothers in Ballari, the sale of several contaminated injectable drugs manufactured by other companies from outside Karnataka is going unchecked," the Minister said.

Asserting that it is essential for all States to flag the issue, Mr. Rao said a system should be put in place for all State and Central laboratories to share alerts with each other regarding drugs which have failed quality testing.

Legal requirement

"There should also be a legal requirement to share sales records from the manufacturer to enable seizure of the contaminated drugs from the supply chain before they are dispensed to patients. We also need a system to alert doctors, pharmacists, and patients about the drugs that are failing testing," he added.

GainBitcoin scam: CBI searches 60 locations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday searched over 60 locations across India as part of its investigation into the GainBitcoin cryptocurrency scam.

The coordinated search was carried out in major cities, including Delhi NCR, Pune, Chandigarh, Nanded, Kolhapur, Bengaluru, and others, targeting premises linked to key accused, their associates, and entities suspected of laundering the proceeds of crime.

Background

GainBitcoin was an alleged Ponzi scheme launched in 2015 by Amit Bhardwaj (deceased), along with Ajay Bhardwaj and their network of agents. The scheme operated through multiple websites such as www.gainbitcoin.com, under the facade of a company named Variabletech Pvt. Ltd.

It lured investors with the promise ofl ucrative returns of 10% a month in Bitcoin for 18 months. Investors were encouraged to purchase Bitcoin from exchanges and invest them with GainBitcoin through "cloud mining" contracts.

The model followed a multi-level marketing (MLM) structure, commonly associated with pyramid-structured Ponzi schemes, where payouts were dependent on bringing in new investors. Initially, investors received payouts in Bitcoin. However, as the influx of new investments dwindled by 2017, the scheme began to collapse. To cover up the losses, GainBitcoin unilaterally switched payouts to their alleged in-house cryptocurrency called MCAP, which had significantly less value than Bitcoin, further misleading investors.

Multiple FIRs were registered across India, alleging large-scale fraud and money laundering. Given the scale and complexity of the scam, cases registered in various states, including Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, were transferred to the CBI by the Supreme Court of India.

CBI conducted a comprehensive investigation to uncover the full extent of the fraud, identify all the accused, and trace the misappropriated funds, including international transactions.

Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway's Karnataka stretch unofficially open

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 68-km stretch of the Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway that passes through Karnataka is being used by around 1,600 motorists on an average every day, for the last two weeks.

In total, 71 km of the 260-km expressway falls under Karnataka. The 68-km stretch from Hoskote to KGF is currently toll-free as the entire four-lane highway is not still fully operational.

"The stretch had been open for a long time, but only recently, have people started taking it. This will help us too as we also want to assess the volume of vehicles and traffic on the expressway. The toll will not be imposed until the work is completed," said a National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) official.

A view of the four-lane Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway. FILE PHOTO

Although the remaining work on the Karnataka side is expected to be completed in a few months, an official inauguration will not take place until the highway becomes operational up to Chennai, the official noted.

In November 2024, NHAI officials had said that the work on the Tamil Nadu side of the expressway will be completed by August 2025.

Bike stunts on flyover: Police open history sheet against 14 youngsters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The East Division police have opened history sheet against 14 youngsters, who were arrested for performing bike stunts on K.R. Puram flyover flashing machete on February 13.

In a video shared widely on social media, the accused were seen riding triple on multiple two-wheelers without helmets or number plates and flashing lethal weapons in the air while performing bike stunts on the roads from D.J. Halli to Hosakote. Through CCTV camera footage, the police tracked them down and arrested them under the Arms Act and various sections of the Motor Vehicle Act.

The police seized seven bikes used, summoned the parents of the accused, and recorded their undertaking. A medical exam found that the 14 were not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. After verification, the police concluded that they were habitual offenders and opened a history sheet against them.

Habitual offender arrested on charge of theft

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hennur police have arrested a 19-year-old habitual offender and recovered 11 mobile phones worth ₹4.7 lakh from him.

The accused Poojari Vannuru Swamy, from Ananthapura in Andhra Pradesh, had allegedly burgled a mobile shop in Kalyana Nagar recently and escaped with 14 mobile phones.

Based on the complaint, the police tracked down the accused near the Tin factory in K. R. Puram and recovered the valuables.

According to the police, the accused was involved in several house break thefts.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients, Mr. N.V.Kader and Mrs. Khadeeja Kader [Owners'] are the absolute owners of the property morefully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Property'.

It is represented by the Owners that in transit they have misplaced the Original of the Auction Sale Deed dated 30/06/2006 and registered on 01/07/2006 as Document No. BDA-1-01860-2006-07, Book No.1, stored in CD.No.BDAD110 in the office of the Additional District Registrar, Bangalore Urban District and even after their sincere efforts they were not able to trace the said original document.

Further the Owners represent that they have lodged a complaint on 22/02/2025 in the Jurisdictional Police Station regarding the above said loss of original Auction Sale Deed vide Lost Report No.1490332.

In view of the representations of my clients as supra, in the event if any person finds or is in possession (lawful or otherwise) of the said Auction Sale Deed the same should be returned to the undersigned and/or in the alternate if any claim or right is being made thereof the same should be notified to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice else it will be presumed that the said Auction Sale Deed is permanently lost.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Site No. 1AAC-226 formed by the Bangalore Development Authority ['BDA'] situated at East of NGEF Layout (Kasturi Nagar), PID.No. 84-138-1AAC-226, now in the 84th Ward of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike in all measuring 223.26 Square Metres with all the rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded as under:

East by : 2-HM Road
West by : Site No.1AAC-224
North by : 1-AAC Road
South by : Site No.1ACC-223

Sd/- **Yamuna.S,** Partner
U&Y LAW CHAMBERS
Unit No.13B-117 13th Floor, Wework, Salarpuria Sattva Magnificia, Old Madras Road, Bengaluru 560 016
26th February, 2025 Bangalore

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No.: CMC/CKM/15th Finance.M.P.C./CR/17/2024-25 Date: 20.02.2025

e-Procurement Re-Tender Notice

Tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from contractors of eligible class, registered in Public Works Department for implementing the below mentioned work under 15th Finance S.W.M. M.P.C. - 2021-22 Scheme. Those interested can submit Tenders subject to conditions.

Sl No.	Details of work	Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Reservation	E.M.D. (in Rs.)
1	DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT35110/CALL-2	60.00	General	1,02,000.00

Cost of Tender Form – As per e-procurement. Time Period: 06 Months (excluding rainy season) **1.** Last date for submission of Tender in e-procurement portal: 10.03.2025 up to 17.30 Hrs. **2**. Date of opening Technical Bid: 12.03.2025 at 11.00 Hrs. **3**. Date of opening Financial Bid: 13.03.2025 at 11.00 Hrs. Further details can be obtained during working hours of this office and from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Due to any reason, if there are any changes, they will be published only in e-procurement and will not be published in newspapers. Contractors should view them in K.P.P.Portal

Sd/- (Smt. Sujatha Shivakumar) President
City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.
Sd/- (Smt. Anu Madhukar) Vice President
City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.
Sd/- (Sri B.C. Basavaraju, K.M.A.S.)
Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/ckm/No.171/ksmca/24-25/1734

Government of Karnataka

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS-2/TND/2024-25/4453 Date : 18/02/2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: Construction of CC road at Sindhanmadu, Construction of road from Sindhanmadu Kodla main road to Kodla village via Naraappa temple of Sindhanmadu, Construction of road from Batgera Siddapur main road to Rangavar Nala at Bhutpur, Construction of road from Gundalli(B) to Mustalli border, Construction of box culvert to joining road in Kachwar, Construction of CC road and drain at Bhutpur, Construction of retaining wall and CC road near hanuman temple at Gundalli B village in Sedam taluka under KKRDB for the year 2024-25. **Indent No.RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13059**, 2) Head of account: **KKRDB MICRO for the year 2024-25**, 3) Amount put to tender: **Rs. 82,59,847.30** 4) Class of Contractor: Class- III and Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **18-02-2025 to 06-03-2025 upto 4.00 pm**, 6) Tender Form Fee: As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Rs.1,65,500.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **18-02-2025 to 06-03-2025 upto 4.00 pm**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **07-03-2025 After 4.00 pm**, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **08-03-2025 After 11.00 am,** 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1005/KSMC&A/2024-25

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KBJNL.NLBC Division, Rodalabanda-584127
Tq.Lingasugur Dist.Raichur email:kbjnlnlbc4@gmail.com

: KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2024-25/2320 Date :-21.2.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-2)

(Through e-tendering only)

Ref:- Tender Notification No.2126 dtd. 8.1.2025.(CALL-1)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NLBC Division, Rodalabanda invites percentage tenders in two cover system from eligible A valid copy of Class-I Electrical License from Electrical Inspectorate Govt of Karnataka, for the work of: (1) AME of 1st Head work of RLIS at Navali Village including opeartionand maintenance of Electro Mechanical equipments.(Indent No. KBJNL/2024-25/HL/WORK_INDENT1387/CALL-2) & (2) AME of 2nd Head work of RLIS at Anehosur Village including opeartionand maintenance of Electro Mechanical equipments. (Indent No. KBJNL/2024-25/HL/WORK_INDENT1388/CALL-2) as detailed in the Tender Notification published in Karnataka public portal viz http// www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in. The Intending tenderers may download the tender document through Karnataka public portal viz., www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in.from 25.2.2025 to 5.3.2025 @ 5.00 PM. The technical bid will be opened on 6.3.2025 @ 5.15 PM and Further details can be obtained from this office in any working days during office hours.

DIP/RCR/762/KSMCA/763/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KBJNL NLBC Division, Rodalbanda

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Proc)/EE/AEE/2024-25/67375-80 Date:25.02.2025

TENDER CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

This office Tender notification letter No. GESCOM/SE(Procurement)/EEE/AEEE/2024-25/64797-802 Dated. 14.02.2025 were Notified in the newspapers i.e.The Vijaya Karnataka (Kannada) and Udaykala(Kannada)on 15.02.2025 and Hindu (English) on 16.02.2025 for **PC-1405:-** Providing Man power Services to Corporate office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi

The following corrigendum is issued for the above tender notification due to administrative reasons.

Sl. No.	As existing	As Amended
1	**TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP Portal mode only)**	**SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP Portal mode only)**
2	Bid documents available at KPPP Portal on after 15.02.2025	Bid documents available at KPP Portal on after **27.02.2025.**
3	Last date bid submitting is 17.03.2025	Last date for bid submission : as per KPP PORTAL
4	Technical Bid Opening is 19.03.2025	Date of Technical Bid Opening: as per KPP PORTAL
5	Price Bid Opening is 20.03.2025	Date of Price Bid Opening :as per KPP PORTAL

Other details as notified in the above news paper remains same.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement),
GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1004/KSMC&A/2024-25

Researchers spot a clue as to why human and mouse genomes overlap

Parts of human, mouse, chicken, and dog DNA called ultra-conserved elements have remained completely unchanged for the last 80 million years. What biological constraints preserved them so precisely across such diverse genomes? For years, scientists were unsure — but this year, a research team made a breakthrough

D.P. Kasbekar

Nearly all the UCEs are also highly unchanged in the chicken and dog genomes, and many are significantly conserved in fish, too. GETTY IMAGES

Eighty million years ago humans, rats, and mice shared the same mammalian ancestor.

More recently, researchers made the astonishing discovery that even today our genomes contain close to 500 segments that have remained totally unchanged since then. These segments are called ultra-conserved elements (UCEs). Nearly all the UCEs are also highly unchanged in the chicken and dog genomes, and many are significantly conserved in fish, too.

What biological constraint maintained the UCEs intact in so many different genomes for these tens of millions of years?

For a long time scientists had no idea – so much so that our ignorance was considered profound.

But a team made a breakthrough this year. Researchers led by David J. Elliott of Newcastle University in the UK reported in *EMBO Journal* that a UCE in a mouse gene has an important role in limiting the production of the protein encoded by this gene.

Using genetic engineering, they deleted this gene in mouse testes, and found that these mice over-produced the corresponding protein in their testes. The overproduction resulted in death of the sperm-producing cells and the mice becoming infertile.

This result suggested that if the UCE underwent any change that interfered with its role in limiting that protein's levels, it would result in loss of sperm production. Thus the altered UCE would not be transmitted to the next generation, accounting for the maintenance of the UCE across species.

From gene to protein

The DNA is a double-helix molecule. Each helix is a string of four bases. The double helix is held together because a base on one strand bonds with a base on the other. Each bond represents a base-pair. A gene is a relatively short stretch of the DNA molecule, typically only a few thousand base-pairs long.

When a gene is 'expressed', the cell copies its sequence of bases into a messenger RNA (mRNA) and loads it onto a cellular machine called the ribosome. There its base sequence specifies the sequence amino acids should be stitched together to make the protein encoded by the gene.

The mRNA also has any one of three short sequences of bases called stop codons. When the ribosome encounters a stop codon, it stops adding more amino acids and releases the newly synthesised protein.

Our genome contains 20,000 genes that code for proteins and another 20,000 used to make RNA that influence the expression of other genes.

(Some DNA sequences, called promoters and enhancers, bind to regulatory proteins which specify when and where other genes are copied into mRNA. These too are called genes because changes in their sequence can have visible effects on the organism.)

The poison exon

Researchers first identified UCEs as DNA sequences longer than 200 base-pairs that retained perfect sequence identity across the human, rat, and mouse genomes. That is, they hadn't tolerated even a single base-pair change in the last 80 million years.

Most UCEs don't code for proteins. Initially researchers thought the UCEs might be exceptionally long enhancers. A subset even showed enhancer activity in the mouse. However, mice bearing altered versions of UCEs didn't have significantly perturbed enhancer function, so the enhancer role couldn't account for the extreme conservation.

The fact that some UCEs could be deleted from the genome without any observable consequence only added to their intrigue.

The fact that some UCEs could be deleted from the genome without any observable consequence only added to their intrigue

After the RNA is copied from a gene's DNA strand, the cell subjects it to a maturation step called splicing: splicing removes, or splices out, segments called introns from the newly made mRNA. The segments retained in the mature mRNA are called exons.

For some genes, an intron is removed from only a subset of mRNA molecules but retained in the rest. This gives rise to alternative forms of mRNA called splice variants: they vary in whether they contain an intron.

The mouse *Tra2b* gene has eight introns and nine exons. Interestingly, the Tra2β protein that the gene encodes for is used for splicing. There is a UCE embedded within the first intron of the *Tra2b* gene. Once the level of the Tra2β protein rises above a certain threshold in the cell, it recognises this UCE as an additional exon to be included in a new splice variant of the gene's mRNA.

The new exon does not introduce new protein-coding sequences. Instead, it contains multiple stop codons that cause protein synthesis to terminate, the mRNA to fall off the ribosome, and then the mRNA to enter a degradation pathway.

Effectively, the new exon prevents further accumulation of the Tra2β protein. Hence it is also called a poison exon.

In sum, the UCE in the *Tra2b* gene's first intron acts as a poison exon that limits the production of the Tra2β protein.

A precise intervention

A protein named Cre can recognise certain short sequences in the DNA and bind to them. The binding causes the DNA sequence located between the two short sequences to be cut out.

The researchers inserted these sequences into the first intron of the *Tra2b* gene, on either side of the UCE. Next, they engineered mice to express Cre in only the sperm-producing cells of the testes. These mice thus lacked the poison exon and were unable to limit the production of the Tra2β protein in their testes. This led to death of the sperm-producing cells.

Admittedly, completely cutting out a UCE from the genome is not the same as changing one or a few of its base-pairs. As of now, we know no biological function that depends on a unique 200 base-pair DNA sequence.

If altering even a single base-pair of the UCE keeps it from being included as a poison exon in the *Tra2b* splice variant and renders the mouse infertile, then an 80-million-year-old mystery will be cracked.

The new study represents a big step towards achieving this goal.

(D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist. kasbekardp@yahoo.co.in)

THE GIST

When the UCE was deleted in some mice, they over-produced the corresponding protein. This resulted in death of the sperm-producing cells and infertility. Thus the altered UCE would not be transmitted to the next generation

Researchers first identified UCEs as DNA sequences longer than 200 base-pairs. Most UCEs don't code for proteins. Initially it was thought UCEs might be enhancers. However, mice bearing altered versions of UCEs didn't have significantly perturbed enhancer function

The mouse *Tra2b* gene has eight introns and nine exons. It carries a UCE in the first intron. Once the level of Tra2β protein it encodes rises it recognises this UCE as an additional exon. The new exon contains stop codons that terminate protein synthesis, hence it is also called a poison exon

As of now, we know no biological function that depends on a unique 200 base-pair DNA sequence. If altering even a single base-pair of the UCE keeps it from being included as a poison exon and renders the mouse infertile, then an 80-million-year-old mystery will be cracked

BIG SHOT

This photo taken on January 20, 2025, and released by Guo Qingshan, shows the "puppy mountain" — which went viral over the Internet in China — in Yichang, a city in central China's Hubei Province. The tendency to see a face where none exists in an image is called pareidolia. AP

QUESTION CORNER

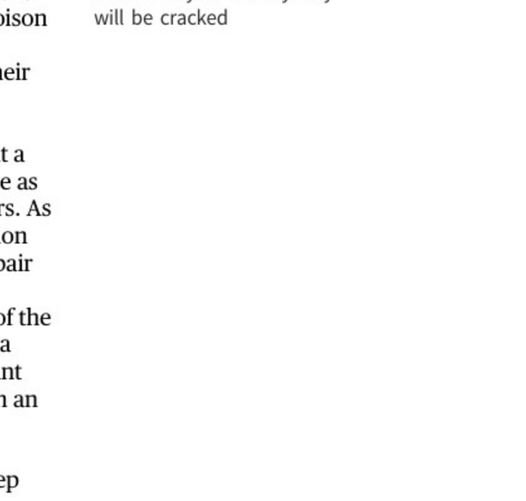
Leaping through time

Q: While leap years get an extra day, why are century years left out unless divisible by 400?

A: A tropical year is the time (365.242199 days) the earth takes to revolve around the sun once. By having just 365 days in a calendar year, 0.242199 days are lost each year. To correct this error, Julius Caesar introduced a four-year cycle. The first three years had 365 days each and the fourth year had 366 days.

This correction was later found to be an overestimation of the year by 11 minutes and 14 seconds, amounting to 5.1204 days in 400 years. A course correction was brought about: to drop three days in 400 years. As a result, century years are not leap years unless divisible by 400.

Time measurements and calendars have often been refined over the years. The one followed now is the Gregorian calendar, named after Pope Gregory XIII of the 16th century. The pope promulgated an order in 1582 that only century years divisible by 400 would be leap years whereas 1700, 1800, 1900, 2100, etc. even though divisible by 4 would be normal years with just 365 days.



Time measurements and calendars have often been refined over the years. ALEXEY SAVCHENKO/UNSPLASH

Accurate atomic clocks have recently detected a slowing down of the earth due to the moon's drag, by about 0.06 microseconds per year. It is not easy to account for such changes even though they affect our calculations of the date and time of the equinoxes. Nonetheless, the present system is working satisfactorily.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Five arrested for trying to sell newborn

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A newborn baby boy was rescued by the Women and Child Welfare Department of the Kunigal Government Hospital from being sold to a childless couple recently.

Based on a complaint by Huccharangamma, senior supervisor of the department, the Kunigal police arrested five persons, including a 45-year-old Anganwadi worker, who allegedly mediated the sale. The baby was rescued from the couple and is being treated at the hospital .

According to the complainant, she received a tip-off from her source in the hospital about the sale of a newborn boy on Monday. She rushed to the hospital and conducted an inquiry to find that a 21-year-old woman from Magadi taluk was admitted to the hospital after she complained of stomach ache, where she delivered a baby boy. As the mother was unmarried, she along, with her male friend Srinanda, 24, a labourer, decided to give away the baby. Srinanda contacted his relative, identified as Jyothi N., an Anganwadi worker, for help. Jyothi approached Mubarak Pasha and his wife, a childless couple, and clinched a deal for ₹60,000.

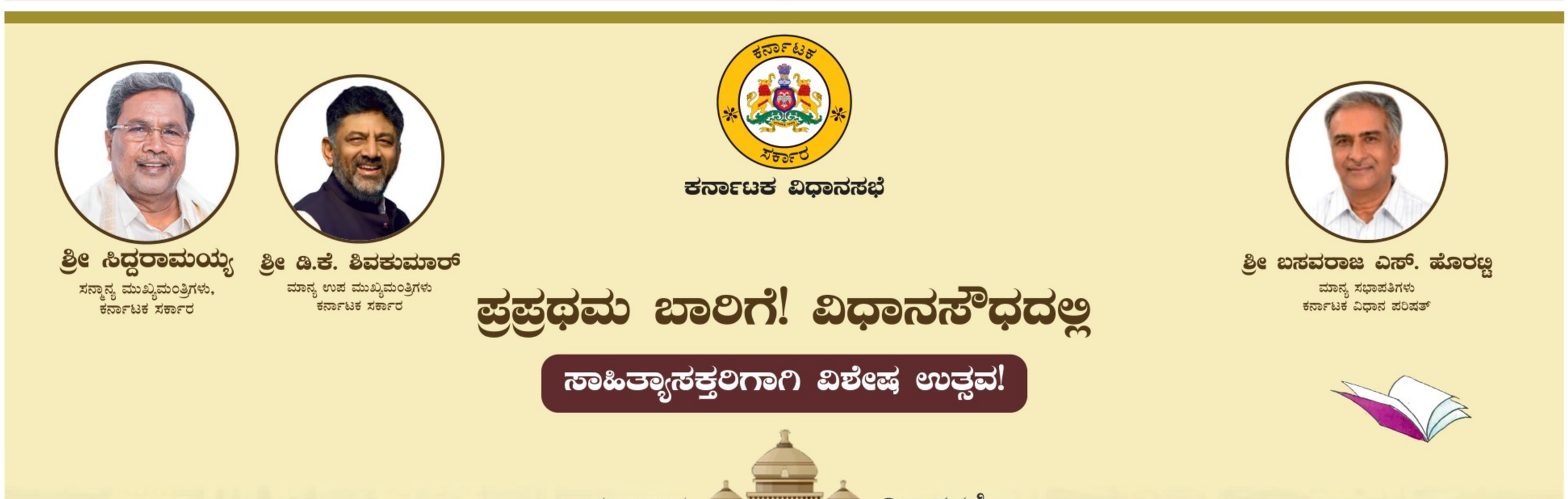
The accused handed over the baby at the hospital premises after discharge.

The Kunigal police tracked down Mubarak Pasha, a labourer, and rescued the baby boy, and also arrested the other four people, including the mother of the baby and her male friend.. The accused have been booked under Sections 80, and 81 of the Juvenile Justice Act.

Christ to stage 'My Fair Lady'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Christ University will stage the iconic musical 'My Fair Lady' on March 1 and 2, at K. E. Auditorium on Hosur Road. The show will begin at 5 p.m. on both days.



Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Cases of illegal storage, excavation of minerals in Chhattisgarh

7,723 More than 7,700 cases of illegal excavation, storage and transportation of minerals were registered in Chhattisgarh in 2024. In 7,555 cases, the vehicles seized along with minerals were released after the recovery of the settlement amount. PTI

The cost of rebuilding Ukraine's economy after Russia's invasion

524 in $ billion. A new study by the World Bank, UN, European Commission and the Ukrainian government found that housing, transport, energy, commerce and education were the most affected sectors. Russian attacks sent energy sector damages up 70% in one year. REUTERS

Amount of money Singapore's citizens lost to scams last year

822 In $ million. The amount lost to fraudsters rose by 70.6% as compared to 2023, according to the annual statistics on scams and cybercrime released by the Singapore Police Force. The total number of scam cases also increased by 10.6% to 51,501 cases in 2024. PTI

The share of GDP the U.K. aims to spend on defence in 2029

3 In per cent. Britain will aim to spend 3% of its GDP on defence in the next parliament, due to begin in 2029, and will help to fund that increased spending by cutting its aid budget, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said. Mr. Starmer said the aid budget would be reduced from 0.5% of GDP to 0.3% in 2027. REUTERS

Tribal students who protested the living conditions in Odisha

100 Over 100 tribal students of a State-run residential school in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district walked the whole night to reach the district headquarters town of Baripada to protest the "inhumane" living conditions. PTI

COMPILED BY KUSHAL VARMA J.V.

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Should a third language be compulsory?

Why is the Union government delaying funds under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to Tamil Nadu? When was the three-language policy first introduced and what did it mandate? What are the challenges in having extra language courses in government schools?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

There has been a tussle between the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government over the three-language formula in schools under the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The Union government has indicated that it needs to be complied with for release of funds tied to the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. However, the Tamil Nadu government views it as a 'smokescreen' for Hindi imposition and insists that it would continue with its two-language policy.

What are constitutional provisions?

The Constitution provides that Hindi is the official language of the Union. English was originally meant to continue as the official language for 15 years from the commencement of the Constitution (till 1965). However, the Official Languages Act, 1963 provides for the continued use of English, in addition to Hindi, for all official purposes of the Union without any time limit. The legislature of a State may adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the official language(s) for official purposes of that State.

Further, the Constitution provides that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.

What is the three-language policy?

The three-language formula was first introduced in the NEP of 1968. This policy and the Official Language Resolution, 1968 mandated the teaching of Hindi as a language in non-Hindi speaking States. There were protests against the same in Tamil Nadu and it has steadfastly followed its two-language policy of teaching Tamil and English in its government schools.

Firm stance: A protest against the three-language policy, in Chennai, on February 18. PTI

The NEP, 2020 has retained the three-language formula albeit with a key difference that it doesn't impose any language on any State. It specifies that the languages to be learnt will be the choice of States, regions and the students, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India.

What are the issues?

The Annual Status of Education Research (ASER) conducted regularly by renowned NGO Pratham leaves much to be improved upon with respect to learning abilities. The report of 2022 indicates that close to 60% of students in Class V could not read a Class II level text. The report of 2023 reveals that 25% of youth in the age group of 14-18 years could not read a Class II level text fluently in their regional language. More than 40% of this age group could not read sentences in English. The learning outcomes in foundational numeracy skills like subtraction and division is equally poor.

As per the report on 'Analysis of Budgeted expenditure on Education' prepared by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in 2022, out of the total revenue expenditure on elementary education estimated at ₹3.03 lakh crore (2019-20), 15% is spent by the Centre while 85% is spent by the States. The total expenditure on elementary, secondary, higher and technical education by the Centre and States combined hovers around 4-4.5% of the GDP as against the target of 6% set out in the NEP 2020. Thus, the expenditure on education is yet to reach the desired levels.

What can be the way forward?

While English is not a native language, its proficiency has helped us in becoming globally competitive in various service industries. India is a multi-lingual country and the objective of learning more Indian languages in schools in desirable. However, the existing issues of learning outcomes coupled with constraints on resources require that the efforts of government run schools should be focused on improving the teaching of the mother tongue/local language and English, apart from foundational numeracy skills. Even in private schools where a third language is taught till Standard VIII, there is limited proficiency being attained by the students in such language.

The 2011 Census data reveals that approximately 26% of India is bilingual and 7% is trilingual. The corresponding figures for urban areas are 44% and 15%, as against 22% and 5% for rural areas. With rapid urbanisation and migration of labourers across the country, this number is bound to increase in the forthcoming Census, indicating that the young and adult population would learn additional languages according to their needs.

There must be a constructive dialogue between the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government to ensure that funding is not delayed.

Considering the share of expenditure borne by the States as well as regional diversities, there also needs to be a productive discussion on providing more autonomy to the States in policy matters relating to school education.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- The three-language formula was first introduced in the NEP of 1968. This policy and the Official Language Resolution, 1968 mandate the teaching of Hindi as a language in non-Hindi speaking States.
- The ASER report of 2022 indicates that close to 60% of students in Class V could not read a Class II level text. The report of 2023 reveals that 25% of youth in the age group of 14-18 years could not read a Class II level text fluently in their regional language.
- The 2011 Census data reveals that approximately 26% of India is bilingual and 7% is trilingual. The corresponding figures for urban areas are 44% and 15%, as against 22% and 5% for rural areas.

What did the HC rule about arresting women at night?

Is the provision which restricts the arrest of women after sunset and before sunrise absolute? What did the 135th report of the Law Commission of India on Women in Custody recommend?

R.K. Vij

The story so far:

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court in *Deepa versus S. Vijayalakshmi and Others* ruled that the legal provision in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, which restricts the arrest of a woman after sunset and before sunrise, is directory and not mandatory. In this case, a woman was arrested at 8pm. A single Judge of the High Court held that the arrest was in breach of Section 46(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). However, a two-Judge Bench of the High Court, in an appeal, held that Section 46(4) of the CrPC was directory and not mandatory.

What are the safeguards?

Two safeguards are provided under Section 43(5) of BNSS (which corresponds to Section 46(4) of CrPC) for the arrest of a woman by the police. First, no arrest of a woman shall be made after sunset and before sunrise except in exceptional circumstances. Second, even in exceptional circumstances, the prior permission of the jurisdictional magistrate must be sought by a woman police officer by making a written report. Section 46(4) of the CrPC is a beneficial provision incorporated to ensure the safety of women. However, the provision does not explain what would constitute an exceptional situation. In addition, the proviso to Section 46(1) states that the arresting police officer should not touch the person of the woman, unless it is a woman police offer or if the circumstances otherwise require it.

What did the Madras HC rule?

The Madras High Court said that Section 46(4) of CrPC does not spell out the consequence of non-compliance of the provision. If the provision was intended to be mandatory, the legislature would definitely have provided for the consequences of non-compliance. A police officer who effects arrest, carries out a public duty. The Court underlined that there could be a situation where a heinous offence is committed by a woman in the night and the magistrate may not be available for obtaining permission. Under such a situation, the accused woman may escape. Therefore, such mechanical adherence to procedure can injure public interest.

What is history of Section 46(4) CrPC?

The 135th report of the Law Commission of India on Women in Custody (1989) recommended that ordinarily no women shall be arrested after sunset and before sunrise. If there are exceptional cases, prior permission of the immediate superior officer shall be obtained, or if the case was of extreme urgency, then an arrest report with reasons shall be made to the immediate superior officer and to the magistrate. Similar recommendations were made in the 154th report of the Law Commission in 1996, and Section 46(4) of CrPC was inserted with some changes in 2005.

What has the Supreme Court said?

In a case, the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court directed the State to issue directions to all police officials that no female persons shall be detained without the presence of a lady constable, and in no case after sunset and before sunrise. Here, the Supreme Court observed that a strict compliance with the said directive in a given circumstance would cause practical difficulties.

Will the ruling dilute the provision?

The Court has clearly said that despite holding Section 46(4) of CrPC/43(5) as directory and not mandatory, the provision cannot be rendered futile by the police. While failure to adhere to the statutory requirement may not lead to the arrest being declared illegal, the officer may have to offer explanation for the inability to comply with the provision. The Court also directed the police to issue guidelines, clarifying as to what constitute exceptional circumstances.

R.K. Vij is a former IPS officer.

THE GIST

- The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court ruled that the legal provision in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, which restricts the arrest of a woman after sunset and before sunrise, is directory and not mandatory.
- The 135th report of the Law Commission of India on Women in Custody (1989) recommended that ordinarily no women shall be arrested after sunset and before sunrise.
- The Court has clearly said that despite holding Section 46(4) of CrPC/43(5) as directory and not mandatory, the provision cannot be rendered futile by the police

It's an honour for Kannada, says writer Banu Mushtaq

Her *Heart Lamp* is among the 13 books on the longlist of International Booker Prize

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

It is an honour for Kannada that a work written in our language is getting this recognition, said Hassan-based Kannada writer, advocate, and activist Banu Mushtaq, whose collection of stories *Heart Lamp*, translated by Deepa Bhasthi, has found a place in the longlist for the International Booker Prize, 2025.

Heart Lamp is one among the 13 books chosen by the 2025 judges' panel, headed by Max Porter. The judges made their selection from 154 books submitted by publishers. The shortlist of books will be announced on April 8 and the winner will be announced on May 20. *Heart Lamp*, is a collection of 11 short stories written by Banu Mushtaq between 1990 and 2023. "So far I have brought out six collections of short stories in Kannada. Among them, 11 were chosen for the collection *Heart Lamp*," said Ms. Mushtaq.

Banu Mushtaq

What judges said

The judges' panel, in its comment on the collection, stated, "Written in a style at once witty, vivid, colloquial, moving and excoriating, it's in her characters - the sparky children, the audacious grandmothers, the buffoonish maulvis and thug brothers, the offhapless husbands, and the mothers above all, surviving their feelings at great cost - that Musthaq emerges as an astonishing writer and observer of human nature, building disconcerting emotional heights out of a rich spoken style."

Earlier, an English translation of a collection of her short stories *Haseena and Other Stories* won English PEN translation award for the year 2024. That was also translated by Deepa Bhasthi.

Early years

Ms. Mushtaq began writing in the progressive literary movement in Karnataka in the 1970s and 1980s, which gave voice to several people from dalit and minority communities, including strong women's voices. Some of her early writings were published in *Lankesh Patrike*, for whom she also worked as a correspondent for some years. The writer remains a committed voice in the progressive circles, and remained critical of forces that divide people among lines of caste, class, gender and religion.

Among her important works are *Hejje Moodida Haadi, Benki-Male, Edeya Hanate, Badavara Magalu Hennalla* (short stories), *Kubra* (novel) *Odde Kannina Baagina* (poetry), *Ibbaniya Kaavu* (essays) and *Kautumbika Daurjanya Kayide* (on Domestic Violence Act). *Haseena* has also been made into a film, directed by Girish Kasaravalli. The late Kannada writer and Jnanpith awardee U.R. Ananthamurthy was also nominated for Man Booker International Prize in 2013, but did not win it.

'Animation has become key driver of tech-innovation, employment'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister Priyank Kharge, during the press conference, regarding the 'Bengaluru GAFX 2025' event on Tuesday.

The Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) industry is no longer just about entertainment, but it has become a key driver of technological innovation, employment, and economic expansion, said Priyank Kharge, Minister for the Departments of Electronics, IT and BT, and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj here on Tuesday.

Karnataka has over 300 AVGC-XR studios, employing more than 15,000 professionals and these studios are creating high-quality content that is making a significant impact in the global media and entertainment industry. India has over 4,000 AVGC-XR studios, with more than 100 contributing to Hollywood and international projects.

The Minister said the majority, over 80%, of animation and graphics work for the Hollywood movie *Mufasa: The Lion King* was done by teams in the city. The movie already made over $700 million globally in collections.

Commenting on the State's leadership in AVGC-XR sector, he said, the State accounted for 20% of India's media and entertainment industry. "We aim to create 50,000 high-quality jobs in the AVGC-XR sector by 2028," said the Minister. According to Mr. Kharge, the global AVGC-XR market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 30-40% from now to 2030 to breach the $400 billion mark. 5G adoption, metaverse development, and growing adoption by enterprises are the key drivers.

Three T.N. fishermen arrested in Malpe

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Unable to bear the alleged irregular payment of wages by an Oman-based fish trader, three Tamil Nadu fishermen set sail in a boat from Oman and were arrested by the Indian Coast Guard near Malpe in Udupi district on February 23 for travelling without passports. The Coastal Security Police (CSP), Malpe, Udupi, gave the names of the three fishermen as James Franklin Moses, 50, and Derose Alphonso, 38, of Ramanathapuram, and Robinston, 50, of Tirunelveli.

The police said the three fishermen left by an Oman fishing boat of Shattaf Launch Manufacturing from Duqm port in Oman on February 17. They sailed 1,326 nautical miles to reach Malpe on February 23.

Noticing the entry of a foreign fishing vessel towards St. Mary's Island in Malpe, the Coast Guard patrolling vessel 'Amarthya' intercepted the boat.

No Indian passports

In a complaint to the Coastal Security Police, Malpe, Coast Guard Boarding Officer Sukhvinder Singh said the three fishermen did not possess Indian passports. They also did not have any documents related to the fishing boat. He alleged that the trio illegally brought foreign vessel into the Indian waters. During an inquiry, the CSP found that the three fishermen were among seven who had been to work in fishing boats in Oman a few years ago. Unable to put up with the reported irregular payment of salaries, four fishermen left Oman citing different reasons and returned to India.

The CSP personnel checked the fishing boat along with officials from the Indian Coast Guard and Customs. They did not find any suspicious material in the boat.

Death in elephant attack: Hassan village observes bandh

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Residents of Arehalli, a hobli headquarters in Belur taluk of Hassan, observed bandh on Tuesday condemning the death of a youth in the elephant attack at neighbouring village Byadane on the previous day.

The bandh call received an impressive response. The business community took part in the protest, closing down their shops for the day. The people gathered on the road connecting Arehalli-Belur and stopping the movement of vehicles. The protesters raised slogans demanding a permanent solution to the human-elephant conflict in the region. Office bearers of Karnataka Growers' Federation, farmers' association and labour union extended support to the bandh. Anil Kumar, 28, an agricultural labourer, died in an elephant attack on Monday evening.

HDFC BANK

HDFC BANK LIMITED
Regd Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch Office: : #51, HDFC Ltd., HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel: 080-41183000, CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

NOTICE FOR REMOVAL OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS/HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Name of Borrower (s) / Legal heir (s) / Legal Representative(s)	Date of Demand Notice(s)	Date of Possession	Description of Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property (ies)
Mr. M S Dharma (Borrower) Mrs. Priya B Geetha (Co-Borrower) M/s Florance Health Care Services (Co-Borrower)	02.08.2024	21.02.2025	**Schedule I:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing vacant Site New Municipal **No. 06,** Chandra Layout ward No. 39, Situated in NGEF Lay-Out Main Road, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore in PID No. 39-79-06, measuring East to West on the southern side: 84 feet 8 inches, Northern side: 84.11", North to South on the Eastern Side 134.7, on the western side 144.7" totally in all measuring **11718 Square feet** and bounded on:- **East by :** Padmashree Hostel, Old No. 1 belonging to Shivashankar, **West by :** Site Old No. 4, **North by :** Private property, **South by :** NGEF Layout Main Road. **Schedule II: 280.7 Square feet** of Undivided Share, Right, Title and interest and Ownership in the as Schedule I property. **Schedule III:** All that piece and parcel of Two Bedroom Residential Apartment Flat bearing **No.209** in the Second Floor known as **"SHIVA WOODS"** constructed on the schedule-I-property with Vitrified Flooring and measuring **1166 Sq. feet.,** of Super built up area exclusively for the above mentioned Flat of the Schedule II Property, inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircases, lifts and other area of **Common use and one car parking facility** in the basement of the building. **East by :** Flat No. 202, **West by :** Lobby, **North by :** Flat No. 210, **South by :** Flat No. 208.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC).**
This Public Notice is issued in view of the fact that HDFC has not been able to communicate / establish contact with the aforesaid Borrower (s) / Legal heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) at his / her / their last known address as per HDFC's records.
Whereas the Authorised Officer of HDFC in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) has issued Demand Notice (s) to the Borrower (s) / Legal heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) on the dates mentioned above.
On the Borrower (s) / Legal heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) failure to comply with the said Demand Notice (s) within the period set out therein, the Authorized Officer of HDFC has taken over possession of the immovable property (ies) / Secured Asset (s) more particularly described in the said Demand Notice (s), under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on the dates mentioned above.
At the time of taking over possession of the said immovable property (ies) / Secured Asset (s), the Authorised Officer of HDFC has drawn up an inventory of personal belongings and household goods lying therein, copy whereof can be collected from the undersigned on any working day during office hours.
In the circumstances, Notice is hereby given, to the said Borrower (s)/ Legal heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to forthwith remove the personal belongings / household goods lying in the aforesaid immovable property (ies) / Secured Asset (s)) within **10 (ten) days** from the date hereof, failing which the Authorised Officer will have no other option but to remove the personal belongings/household goods and dispose off /deal with it in the manner as may be deemed fit, entirely at the Borrower (s) / Legal heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) risk as to cost and consequences, in which event, no claim will be entertained in this regard in future.

Date: 26.02.2025
Place: Bangalore
Sd/-Authorised Officer
HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

SREENIDHI SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA
Head Office: No.113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bengaluru-560004.
Phone:080-25722152/153/ 26601152/153 / 9482422153,
E-mail:sssbn@sreenidhibank.com / sssbn2bmh@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE - POSSESSION NOTICE
Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Sri.Nagabhushana. S.P

APPENDIX - IV, (See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha Bommanahalli Branch,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers (conferred under section 13(12), 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **25.11.2024** calling upon the Borrower **Sri.S.P.Nagabhushana** S/o.Late.B.Puttalingaiah, Residing at No.28/1, Santhrupti, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Muthurayaswamy Layout, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560097, **and Smt. P.Kokila,** D/o. Prabhu.M, Residing at No.190, Vasan Nivas, 4th Main, Singapura Paradise, M.S.Palya, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560097 **and also at:** No.83, Prateeksha Nilaya, Kaveri Enclave, 1st floor, 2nd Cross, 9th Main Road, Kanshiram Nagar, Near Sambram College Road, Bengaluru-560097 demanding to repay the amount of **Rs.22,60,057/-** (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Sixty Thousand and Fifty Seven) only together with Interest and costs thereon, being the loan amount due from him, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower/s had failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property mortgaged to the Bank and described in Schedule herein below, together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realizing the above mentioned amounts (Secured Assets), in exercise of the powers conferred on them under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **25th day of February 2025.**
The borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of **M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha** for a sum of **Rs.23,45,735/-** (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Five Only) of **Sri Nagabhushana S.P and Rs.36,91,209.04** (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Ninety one Thousand Two Hundred and Nine & Paisa Zero Four) only of **Smt.Kokila.P and both combined together Rs.60,36,944.04** (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Four and paisa Zero four) only as on **25.02.2025** together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing site No.28, New No.28/1, Old Katha No.1271, BBMP Katha No.1271/45/1/28/1 situated at Doddabommasandra Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 25 Feet, North to South 28 Feet,totally measuring 700 Sq. Feet, building consisting of Ground Floor, 1st Floor, 2nd Floor & 3rd Floor, together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on East by: Private Property, West by: Remaining Western Portion of Same Property in Same number, North by Road and South by: Site No.27.

Date : 25.02.2025
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/-
Authorised Officer

Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Your Family Bank. Across India.

Asset Recovery Management Branch,
1st Floor, FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-560009.
Phone: 080-22955928(Gen)/22955929(AGM)
E-Mail: blr.arm@ktkbank.com
Website: https://karnatakabank.com
CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

PUBLIC E-AUCTION
NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ON 20.03.2025

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) / Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer (details mentioned below), will be sold on **"As is where is" and "As is what is" basis on 20.03.2025** at the below mentioned timings for recovery of dues with further interest and cost thereon due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**
The details are as under: Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **19.03.2025 at 4.00 pm** through online payment to the Account No. details of which are given below or by way of DD favouring **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors/ Co-Obligants and Loan Account No.	Balance O/S Rs. Future Interest From + Costs	Possession Date Possession Type	Description of the Property/ies	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Auction Time	Incremental Value of the Bid	Branch Name & Account Details for Remitting EMD/ IFSC Code
1	**(1) M/s. Sri Sai Build Pro, Represented by its Proprietor: Mr. Ramadas B.R, Addressed at:-** No.85/3, Cargo Road, Near Karnataka Bank, Bettakote Village, Devanahalli Town, Bengaluru-562129, **Also at:-** No.108, "Shiva Nilaya", 5th Main, 1st Cross, C V Raman Nagar, S.G Palya, Bengaluru-560093, **(2) Mr. Ramadas B.R,** S/o Mr. Bangalore Ramamurthy, **(3) Mr. Gagan B.R,** S/o Mr. Ramadas B.R, **Both are R/at :** No.108, "Shiva Nilaya", 5th Main, 1st Cross, C V Raman Nagar, S.G Palya, Bengaluru-560093. **Loan A/c Nos.: (1) PSTL A/c No. 9457001800001101 (2) PSOD No. 9457000600001501**	**Total Rs. 1,52,13,832.40 [(1) Rs. 1,14,69,160.20 14.01.2025 + (2) Rs. 37,44,672.20 01.01.2025]**	**20.06.2024 & Constructive**	All that piece and parcel of Residential property bearing **Site No.09,** admeasuring **1160 Sq.ft.** (East to West: 29 feet; North to South: 40 feet), and residential building namely "Shiva Nilaya" constructed thereon having Municipal No.226/9, PID No.83-103-226/9, BBMP Ward No.83, situated at Jogupalya, now known as Suddaguntepalya, Byrasandra Dakhale, K.R Puram Hobli, 5th Main, 1st Cross, CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru-560093, **belonging to Mr. Ramadas B.R. Boundaries of Property : East by :** Site No.10 belongs to Sarojamma, (Nanjaiah), **West by :** Site No.8 belongs to Kusuma, **North by :** Site No.6 belongs to Papanna, **South by :** Road. **Property location: Latitude & Longitude: 12.983292, 77.656048**	**Rs. 1,53,00,000/-**	**Rs. 15,30,000/-**	**11.15 AM to 11.35 AM**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch - Bengaluru - Kaggadasapura A/c No: - 9453500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000945**
2	**(1) M/s. Tanisha Minerals Pvt. Limited, Represented by its Directors : i) Mr. Nagaraju Gubba, ii) Mrs. Venkataramani Gubba, Addressed at:** No.53, 3rd Floor, Empire Tower, Railway Parallel Road, K.P West, Bengaluru-560020. **(2) Mr. Nagaraju Gubba,** S/o Late. Krishnaiah Gubba, **R/at:** No.1014, Ramya Sadana, Flat No. 24/1, 11th Main, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560104. **(3) Mrs. Venkataramani Gubba,** W/o Mr. Nagaraju Gubba, **R/at:** No.1014, Ramya Sadana, Flat No. 24/1, 11th Main, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560104. **(4) Mr. Lakshminarayana Gubba,** S/o Late. Krishnaiah Gubba, **R/at:** No.222, Matha Nilaya, 5th Main Road, Near Sri Vidyanagar Bus Stop, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085 **(5) Mrs. Asha G L,** W/o Mr. Lakshminarayana Gubba, **R/at:** No.222, Matha Nilaya, 5th Main Road, Near Sri Vidyanagar Bus Stop, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085 **(6) Mr. Narayana Babu B.S,** S/o Mr. B. Subbarayan, **R/at:** No.14, Vanasuma, Lake City Layout, Behind Janapriya, Kodichikkanahalli, Bengaluru-560040 **(7) Mrs. Mala B.S, W/o Mr. Puttaraju B.S, R/at:-** No.13, 60 Feet Road, Amarjyothinagar, Prashanthanagar Main Road, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040 **(8) Mr. Puttaraju B.S,** S/o Mr. Shivanna B.C **R/at:-** No.13, 60 Feet Road, Amarjyothinagar, Prashanthanagar Main Road, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040 **Loan A/c Nos.: (1) PSTL A/c 0637001800049501 (2) PSTL A/c 0637001800049701 (3) OD A/c 0637000100444901**	**Total Rs. 5,84,82,519.83 [(1) Rs. 4,37,17,469.86 21.10.2024 + (2) Rs. 1,15,58,374.14 21.10.2024 + (3) Rs. 32,06,675.83 19.10.2024]**	**23.07.2024 Constructive**	**Item No.1:-** All that piece and parcel of **Residential Flat** bearing **No. GF-001,** Ground Floor on the Western side in the Apartment known as **"Ramya Sadana"** with the **Super Built Up Area of 1834.25 sq.ft. & 675 sq.ft.** of undivided share over the land along with one car parking slot in the basement measuring **200 sq.ft.** comprised in **BDA site No. 1014, Municipal No. 24/1, Corporation No. 1014/24, PID No. 34-112-24/1,** situated at 11th Main Road, Ward No. 34, BBMP, Railway Pipeline Road, RPC Layout, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru -560040 belonging to **Mr. Nagaraju Gubba. Boundaries of Flat: East by :** Corridor, Entrance & then Flat No.02, **West by :** Open to Sky, **North by :** Open to Sky, **South by :** Open to Sky. **Property location: Latitude & Longitude: 12.958487, 77.534554**	**Rs. 1,65,00,000/-**	**Rs. 16,50,000/-**	**12.05 PM to 12.25PM**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru – Nehrunagar A/c No. 0633500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000063**
				Item No.2:- All that part and parcel of property bearing **Site No.40,** admeasuring **1780 sq.ft.,** (measuring East to West : 40 feet and North to South: 44.50 feet), Layout formed by Binny Mills Workers & other Labours Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. in **Sy. No.10** of K.H Ranganath Colony, 2nd Stage, along with building constructed thereon having PID No. 41-28-40, BBMP Division No.21, present BBMP No.40, Ward No. 41, situated at Deevatige Ramanahalli Layout, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560026 belonging to **Mr. Lakshminarayana Gubba & Mrs. Asha G L. Boundaries of Property: East by :** Road, **West by:** Site No.39, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Road. **Property location: Latitude & Longitude: 12.94678, 77.536889**	**Rs. 1,71,00,000/-**	**Rs. 17,10,000/-**	**12.30 PM to 12.50 PM**		
				Item No.3:- All that part and parcel of converted residential land bearing Khata No.326/428, Sy.No.15/2B, measuring 2 Acres 21 Guntas situated at Kibbanahally Village, Kibbanahally Hobli, Tiptur Taluk, Tumakuru District-572114 belonging to **Mr. Puttaraju B.S. Boundaries of Property: East by :** Milk Booth, **West by:** Remaining property, **North by:** Kharabu Halla, **South by:** Road. **Property location: Latitude & Longitude: 13.311706, 76.657295**	**Rs. 3,85,00,000/-**	**Rs. 38,50,000/-**	**12.55 PM to 13.15 PM**		
3	**(1) Mr. Bhagiratha S,** S/o Mr. Sadashivaiah, **(2) Mrs. S Bhanurekha,** W/o Mr. Bhagiratha S, **Both addressed at:** H#159, ASB Nilaya, Sunkadakatte, Magadi Main Road, Bengaluru-560091. **Loan A/c Nos.: (1) TL A/c No.3257001600054201 (2) TL A/c No.3257001600054701**	**Total Rs. 2,94,69,150.96 [(1) Rs. 1,18,82,443.60 29.05.2024 + (2) Rs. 1,75,86,707.36 11.06.2024]**	**12.10.2021 Constructive**	All that part and parcel of land measuring **1900 sqft** (East to West-40ft, North to South-(45+50)/2=47.5ft) and residential building consisting of GF+FF+TeF measuring **2497.82 sqft in Site No.56, Khata No.60/56,** Jnanajyothinagar, II Stage, Layout formed in Sy.No.60, Mallathahalli Village, Yeshwanthapur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, coming within the jurisdiction of Ward No.129 of BBMP, New PID No. 129-W0940-39, Bangalore-560056, belonging to **Mr. Bhagiratha S and Mrs. Bhanu Rekha. Boundaries of Property (as per deed/actual): East by:** Road/11th Cross Road, **West by:** Property No.57/3 floor residential building, **North by:** Property No.32/Vacant plot, **South by:** Property belongs to Sri. H. Venkatesh/Vacant plot. **Property Location: Latitude & Longitude: 12.956768, 77.494064**	**Rs. 2,20,00,000/-**	**Rs. 22,00,000/-**	**11.30 AM to 11.50 AM**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch : Bengaluru– Hunsemaranahalli A/c No: 3253500200004101 IFSC:KARB0000325**

(The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).
(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (6) of Rule 8/Sub Rule (1) of Rule 9 of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors).
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. https://karnatakabank.com under the head "Auction Notice".
The E-auction will be conducted through portal www.auctionbazaar.com on **20.03.2025** at above mentioned time with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at **www.auctionbazaar.com** and get the user Id and password free of cost and get training i.e. online training on E-auction (tentatively on **19.03.2025**) from **M/s ARCA EMART PVT LTD** (Known by their **website: www.auctionbazaar.com**) Auction Bazaar, 7-1-28/1/A/1, Park Avenue 1, Ameerpet, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Telangana, India – 500016, **Contact No. :** 8885035382, E-mail : **contact@auctionbazaar.com and disposal.karnataka@auctionbazaar.com.**

Date : 25.02.2025
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/- Assistant General Manager & Authorised Officer, Karnataka Bank Ltd.

KEYWORD

How political consultancies are rewriting Indian elections

While the impact of political consultancy firms on our politics continues to remain murky, there are disturbing indicators of how they can de-institutionalise political parties in the name of business

Aadya Narain
Divyansh Nautiyal

The New Delhi elections bore witness to an intense battle of narratives, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) promising a double-engine sarkaar to voters while battering the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for its failures in governance, and its myriad corruption scandals. While the AAP attempted to reframe the discourse to welfare, and the Centre-State conflict, it nonetheless resulted in a rout for the party. The writers of these narratives, however, were not named on constituency tickets, but worked in the background, to prepare, package and professionalise the parties in fray.

India's tryst with political consultancy firms has been well documented. It started with Viplav Communications (founded in 2003) assisting a newer generation of MPs with their campaigns. It rose to prominence by strategising the Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal's campaign in the Odisha Assembly elections of 2009. A distinct marker was the use of novelties such as the SuperCaller, which enabled them to reach hundreds of thousands of voters daily with pre-recorded messages. Since then, an outcrop of firms, including the Populus Empowerment Network (PEN), Showtime Consulting and JPAC Persona have consolidated their positions as important stakeholders in Indian elections. They have been hired by parties like the BJP and the Congress as well as regional parties like the Trinamool Congress, and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. With respect to AAP, IPAC (Indian Political Action Committee) spearheaded its campaign for the New Delhi elections.

Different methods: A child waves the Congress flag during a rally for Delhi elections on January 30. AP

Americanising Indian elections

The rise of political consultancy firms represents an increasing 'Americanisation' of Indian election campaigns. These firms work in a war room-like setting with professionals from the IITs, IIMs and NLUs. They focus on data collection through voter surveys, social media and micro-targeted digital campaigns. The consultancy firms' ability to introduce sophisticated campaign technologies enable parties to shift from traditional ground-level mobilisation to tech-driven voter engagement.

Traditionally, Indian elections were party-driven, with political ideologies and grassroots mobilisation playing a dominant role. However, there is a trend towards personality-centric campaigns, where individual leaders overshadow their parties. Consultancy firms build a U.S.-presidential style campaign narrative around individual leaders rather than party ideology or collective leadership. The influential role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in winning elections for the BJP, or the Congress constantly relying on Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi for their electoral prospects elucidate this trend.

The nature of political campaigns has also evolved into a more permanent and continuous process. Political leaders and parties remain in a perpetual state of campaigning, using social media narratives, television appearances, and frequent rallies to maintain voter engagement even between elections. The increasing reliance on television and digital media has further reinforced the role of political consultants, with political advertising, cinematic-style campaign videos, and aggressive PR campaigns becoming common features of Indian elections.

The erasure of party cadre

As political consultancy firms continue to gain a foothold in Indian politics, their consolidation also reflects a deeper institutional problem within India's political parties. In a democracy, political parties serve as an intermediary between the state and the people and perform multiple functions by doing so. They mobilise the electorate by engaging with citizens, understanding the issues which affect them and articulating them through their manifestos and policy solutions. However, the functioning of political parties in India is plagued by numerous problems.

There is a concentration of power within top leadership in many parties, especially regional parties such as the Trinamool Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party and Samajwadi Party, which resemble single family outfits, and are controlled by their satraps. Decisions on aspects ranging from the nomination of candidates to deciding the basic stance and strategy of the party reflect the diktats of top leadership rather than the democratic collective choice of the party as a whole. With party cadres increasingly being unheard, underfunded, and unorganised, political parties became institutionally weak which left a vacuum that has now been occupied by political consultancy firms. A senior consultant who was involved in the Maharashtra elections (2024) remarked that 'political consultancy firms are hired by the top leadership of the party and directly engage with them for poll campaigning'. They undertake the very tasks which the cadre of a party is supposed to undertake – relay the feedback of the public to the top leadership of the party, understand the issues of the electorate, take voter surveys and frame pertinent issues for the polls among others.

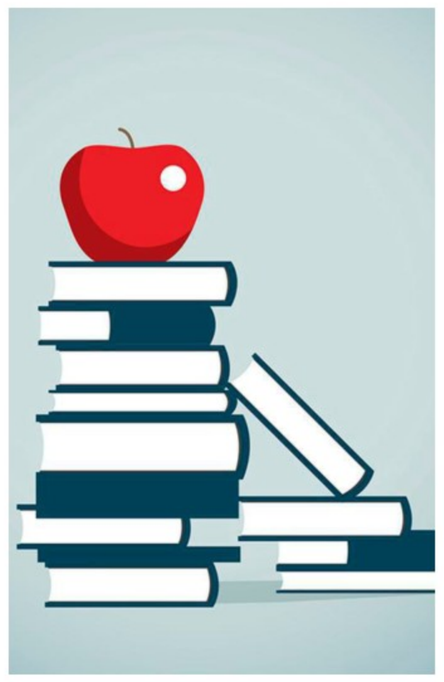
While the involvement of consultants could boost electoral prospects of a party, its latent effects necessitate further scrutiny. In relying on consultants to understand ground realities in politics, political parties essentially bypass their cadre. Moreover, the feedback of consultants is often prioritised over that of the party workers/local leaders/MLAs. According to a consultant recently involved in the Delhi elections, this also creates friction between the consultants and party workers who feel their role is being deliberately undermined by 'outsiders'. The dominance of the political consultant, coupled with personality-cult politics, systematically sidelines the cadre structure and prevents the growth of independent power centres within a party.

With the increasing involvement of political consultancy firms within party structures, concerns have also emerged about unelected individuals exerting a disproportionate influence over decisions that should rest solely with democratically elected representatives. In the case of the Trinamool Congress-I-PAC collaboration in West Bengal, there were allegations that the consultancy firm wielded significant influence over ticket distribution, the selection of key poll issues, and even governance after the party had come to power. It raises important questions about the accountability of these firms in a democracy and the extent of their impact on political parties.

By outsourcing such functions to politically neutral or 'agnostic' professionals who focus solely on the process of campaigning itself, the ideological platform of a party becomes second fiddle. Politics is deeply ideological, tumultuous, and contradictory, but not an inconvenience to be bypassed. When these aspects of electioneering are outsourced to a firm, it weakens the link between the political party and the voters.

While the impact of political consultancy firms on our politics continues to remain murky, there are disturbing indicators of how they can de-institutionalise political parties in the name of business. The clientele of these firms – the political parties – must grapple with their reality, rather than shy away from it. They must work towards institutional strength, bolster their internal democracy and constantly engage with citizens to fulfil their mandate as important stakeholders of a democracy. For the long term, parties need to go back to the drawing board and revisit their founding principles.

Aadya Narain is a student at Jindal Global Law School. Divyansh Nautiyal studies at the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"How do you pronounce f..r..e..e..b..i..e?"

"The first syllable 'free' is pronounced like the word 'free' and the second syllable 'bie' sounds like the word 'bee'. The stress is on the first syllable."

"And a 'FREEbie' is anything that is given away free. Is that correct?"

"Correct. The tape that you're listening to right now, I got it as a freebie."

"Last week I got a couple of hand towels as freebies at the supermarket. But tell me, where did you get this cassette?"

"At the new shop on M.G. Road."

"If they are giving away freebies, it must be a pretty big place."

"There's not enough room to swing a cat."

"Not enough room to swing a cat! What does it mean?"

"It means 'not enough room to live, work, etc in'. Many hotels advertise that they have extra large rooms. But when you go there, you find there's not enough room to swing a cat."

"The same is true of some chit fund companies as well. There's no room to swing a cat. But tell me, how did this expression come into being? And why, 'swing a cat' and not a 'rat' or a 'bat'?"

"Different people have offered different explanations about the origin of this expression. And the one that I'm going to tell you has nothing to do with the animal 'cat'."

"It doesn't? What does the 'cat' in the expression 'no room to swing a cat' refer to then?"

"It refers to a whip."

"A whip!"

"Yes. You see in the early days of sailing, sailors were whipped as a sort of punishment. And the whip that was used was called 'cat-o'-nine-tails'."

"That's a pretty long name for a whip."

True. That's why it was usually referred to as the 'cat'."

"I see. And if you wanted to hit someone really hard with the 'cat', you needed to take a big swing...."

"...and in order to take a big swing, you needed a lot of room."

"I see. That's interesting. By the way, what does 'to rubbish someone' mean?"

"It means to 'criticise someone or something contemptuously'. For example, the Chief Minister's proposal was rubbished by all his ministers'.

"Can I say, 'Many Indians who stay abroad tend to rubbish India'?"

"Why, even Indians who stay here rubbish India. It's our national pastime. Hey, where are you going?"

"Mohan is taking me to a movie."

"Which one?"

"Cat-O'-Nine-Tails."

Published in The Hindu on August 1, 1995.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Virat Kohli scored a century on Sunday, making it his 51st ODI ton. Here is a quiz on some of his milestones

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
On Sunday, Virat Kohli also achieved another feat with respect to total runs in an ODI. How many did he score? In how many innings did he reach this milestone?

QUESTION 2
In Test cricket, he has got the most number of wins as captain of India. How many wins out of how many matches?

QUESTION 3
Kohli has scored the most double hundreds by an Indian player. How many?

QUESTION 4
Virat Kohli has scored the most runs in a single edition of the ODI World Cup, with 765. In which year was this?

QUESTION 5
In T20I, Kohli is the player to have gotten the most player of the match awards, and player of the series awards. How many times for each respectively?

QUESTION 6
Kohli is also the player to have scored the most runs in the IPL. How many?

Visual question:
In this image taken on September 30, 2024, Virat Kohli completed another milestone, a feat he achieved on the fourth day of the Test against Bangladesh. He is only the second Indian cricketer to have done this, and the fourth overall. What is the milestone?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The year in which India and Pakistan faced off in a world cup for the first time. **Ans: 1992**
2. The number of players who have appeared for both India and Pakistan. **Ans: 3. Amir Elahi, Gul Mohammad, and Abdul Hafeez Kardar**
3. This player has scored the most ODI runs in the fixture. **Ans: Sachin Tendulkar**
4. This player has the highest score in a single ODI match between two nations. **Ans: Saeed Anwar**
5. The number of times Pakistan won a match between the two in an ICC tournament. **Ans: 4**
Visual: Name this batsman. **Ans: Javed Miandad**
Early Birds: Dodo Jayaditya| Piyali Tuli| Tom Alan Faith| Abhay Krishan| Sonali Das

Word of the day

Meticulous:
marked by precise accordance to detail

Synonym: punctilious

Usage: *This book is the result of years of meticulous research.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/meticulouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /mɪˈtɪkjʊlɪs/, /mɪˈtɪkjʊləs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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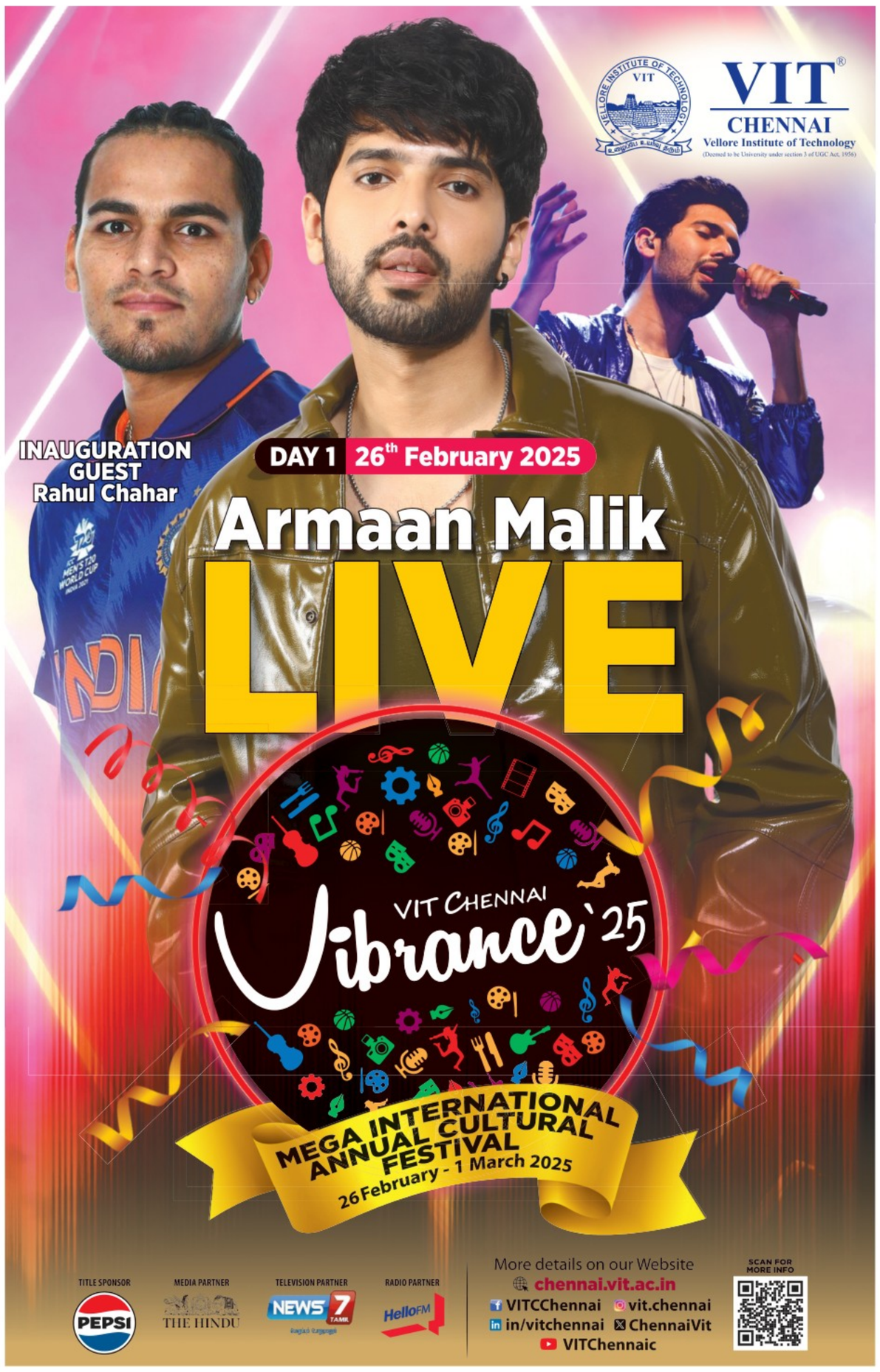

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Karnataka
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPO 2025

INAUGURATION: Date: 26th February, 2025, 6:00 PM
Venue: Taj West End, Bangalore

BUSINESS MEETINGS
Date: 27th, 28th February, 2025, 9:30 AM
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HC sets aside suspension of overworked KKRTC staffer

It lays emphasis on the importance of 'right to sleep' and work-life balance of employees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Emphasising the importance of right to sleep and work-life balance of employees, particularly those working in shifts, the High Court of Karnataka has found no fault with a constable of State Transport Corporation sleeping during duty hours as he was compelled to work for double shifts (16 hours) in 24 hours every day for 60 days without break.

Constable Chandrashekhar of the Kalyan Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) was suspended on July 1, 2024, after a video, showing him sleeping during duty hours, went viral on social media and messaging platforms.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna has set aside the suspension order passed by the disciplinary authority of KKRTC's Koppal division while allowing Mr. Chandrashekhar's petition.

Though the KKRTC justified the suspension order, the corporation did not deny the fact that Mr. Chandrashekar was made to work for 16 hours a day for 60 days without a break due to shortage of personnel in the posts of constables, the court pointed out.

Also, the court noted that the corporation's Vigilance Department, which had recommended the petitioner's suspension, had submitted a report that there were only three constables in the depot and the workload on the existing staff is extremely high while suggesting appointing two more constables for the smooth functioning of the depot.

Citing articles of universal declaration of human rights dealing with "right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours...", and judgements on this issue by other high courts, Mr. Nagaprasanna said that "The petitioner is made to overwork, two shifts in 24 hours, for 60 long days without break. Therefore, the action of KKRTC placing the petitioner under suspension for the folly of the corporation is undoubtedly an action which suffers from want of *bona fides*."

If the petitioner had slept while on duty when in a single shift, it would undoubtedly become "misconduct" but in the present case, no fault can be found with the petitioner sleeping during duty hours, the court said.

ILO covenant

The court also pointed out that the covenants of the International Labour Organisation to which India is a part, recognise the work and life balance and that the hours of work should not exceed 48 hours in a week and eight hours in a day, except in exceptional circumstances.

HC directs coop. bank to consider appointing married woman on compassionate grounds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The court asks the petitioner-woman to take care of her aged mother for lifetime after securing a job in the bank

The High Court of Karnataka has directed a cooperative bank to appoint a 41-year-old married woman on compassionate grounds while holding that the bank has erred in not considering repeated pleas made for compassionate appointment since 2007 when her father died in harness.

Meanwhile, the court directed the woman to take care of her aged mother for lifetime on securing a job on compassionate grounds, while asking her to file an affidavit to that effect. "This case forms a classic illustration to issue a direction to consider the petition of the petitioner for appointment on compassionate grounds as there is no impediment in law to deny such appointment to the petitioner, as the family even today is driven by impecuniosity and is not in a position that can be described as beyond hand-to-mouth," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing the petition filed by Veena, a resident of Kanasur in Siddapur taluk of Uttara Kannada district.

The court directed the Canara District Central Cooperative Bank, Uttara Kannada, to consider her representation for appointment to the post of an attender within two months.

Since 2007

Petitioner's mother Shantha had way back in 2007 given a representation to the bank to give a suitable job to her daughter, the petitioner, who had failed in 10th standard, on compassionate ground after the death of her husband, Venkatesh S. Shet, who worked as a regular employee for 32 years in the bank.However, the bank did not reply to this representation nor the series of similar representations made for the next several years by the mother and daughter. Meanwhile, the petitioner got married in 2012.

Marital status

Meanwhile, in 2021, the bank appointed the petitioner to the post of an attender on contract basis but rejected her plea for appointment on compassionate grounds. The court in 2022 directed the bank to consider her plea for compassionate appointment. Acting on this direction, the bank, in 2022, again rejected her plea saying that married daughters are not eligible for compassionate appointments.

However, the court found fault with the approach of the bank for not considering her case when she was unmarried. The court also faulted the bank for contending that a married daughter is not eligible for compassionate appointment as per its rule while pointing out that the State government, on the court's directions, has changed the rule making married daughters too eligible for such appointment.

Terming the bank's action as arbitrary and illegal, the court said that it is high time the bank amended its rule in tune with the law.

Kristu Jayanti College holds student summit on media innovation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti College hosted the Student Summit on Media Innovation on Tuesday, drawing around 200 media students from across the city. The summit provided a platform for aspiring media entrepreneurs to present their innovative business ideas while gaining valuable insights into the ever-evolving media landscape.

Mockbul Haque, General Manager of Advertisement Sales at *The Hindu*, Bengaluru, the chief guest at the event, inspired the audience with his personal journey in the media industry. He shared a compelling narrative of the industry's transformation from traditional platforms to the digital age.

The summit also featured in-depth discussions on the prospects and challenges of media entrepreneurship. Students who presented their entrepreneurial ideas were awarded certificates, recognising their creativity and dedication.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AUSTINE Deepak Ferrao, S/o Antony Ferrao, R/a #3381, Heavens Grace, Abbanadka, Kedinje Post, Karkalla Taluk, Nandalike, Udupi, Nandalike, Karnataka-576111, today at Bengaluru, have changed my name to Deepak Poojary vide affidavit dt: 24.02.2025 sworn before Notary Puttaramaiah, B'luru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **D.N. VYASAMUNI alias VYASAMUNIACHAR N. DIDDIGI,** age 47 years, S/o Sri Narasimhachar, R/at Poorna Prajna Vidya Peetha, Kathriguppe Main Road, Bangalore-560 028 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **D.N. VYASAMUNI VYASAMUNI** and **VYASAMUNIACHAR .N DIDDIGI** are one and the same and refers to me only and my father was also called as **NARASIMHACHAR, NARASIMHACHARI** and **NARASIMHACHAR DIDDIGI,** vide affidavit dated 24-02-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SHASHIDEVI .M.P** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Rakshitha Bhat Ramanatha** alias R **Rakshitha Bhat** alias **Ramanatha Rakshitha Bhat** alias **R Rakshita Bhat,** D/o Ramanatha Bhat Damodar and W/o Ranjan Prabhu Mangalore, aged about 30 years, R/at 006, Vaastu Greens, 79/1, Kodipalya Road, Sunkalpalya, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560060, Karnataka have changed my name to **Rakshitha Prabhu** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 24th February 2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **Y.R. Chandrasekar** at Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANJUNA MADAKKUNI, D/o. Madakkuni Prakasan, R/at Flat No. 305, Impact Oasis Apt, Chikka Banaswadi, Bang 560033 have changed my name from ANJUNA M to ANJUNA MADAKKUNI for all my future purposes through affidavit dated 24–02–2025 sworn before the notary B Seshagiri.

I, SHRUTI Shanmukh Chougala, Spouse of No.10490315N Rank Nk Name Sadashiv Nilajagi R/a Hunasyal PY (Vill), Gokak (Post) Gokak (Teh) Belgaum (Dist) Karnataka have changed my name to Shruti Sadashiv Nilajagi vide affidavit dt: 20.2.2025 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'luru

I, AALIYA D/o Mohamed Refeeq residing at No.22, 2nd A Main Road, Kanakashri Layout, Byrathi Cross, Hennur Main Road, Bengaluru -560077, Karnataka have changed my name to Farhana Taj vide affidavit dated 24/02/2025 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE PRICIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE CUM FAMILY COURT AT MALKAJGIRI
IA No. 458 of 2024
IN
F.C.O.P No. 663/2017
In the matter of:
Ms. Lally S Hariette Jenifer @ Lally ...Petitioner
And
Mr. John Rodrigues & 2 others ...Respondents
To, Mr. John Rodrigues S/o. L Joseph, No. G 827, Central Township, 11th Cross, Marath Halli, Bangalore - 560037. Off: Department: 3303, PB No. 78153-87, Foundry & Forge Division, HAL, Bangalore-560017.
WHEREAS the above name of the petitioner filed a petition against the Respondent for Divorce you are required to appear in the Court on the 3rd day of March 2025 at 10:30 am in person or by pleader duly instructs and able to answer all material question relating to the above proceeding.
And also Notice that in default of your appearance on the aforesaid day the issues will be entitled and that petition heard and determined in your absence. You shall also bring with you or send by your pleader any document which the petitioner desires inspect any document on which you intende to rely in support of defense. You are required to file Counter in this court before the 3rd day of March 2025
GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Court 28th day of January 2025
M/s. J KUMARESAN
Advocate
Unit No. 10, 4th Floor, Down Town, 6-2-27, 27/A, & 6-2-28, Lakdi Ka Pool, Hyderabad-500004. **Ph: 9441476313**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE PRICIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE CUM FAMILY COURT AT MALKAJGIRI
IA No. 458 of 2024
IN
F.C.O.P No. 663/2017
In the matter of:
Ms. Lally S Hariette Jenifer @ Lally ...Petitioner
And
Mr. John Rodrigues & 2 others ...Respondents
To, Elavarsi Mary, Employed in ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENT, St. Johns Hospital National Academy of Health Services Sarjapur Road, Bangalore - 560034. R/o. No. G 827, Central Township, 11th Cross, Marath Halli, Bangalore - 560037.
WHEREAS the above name of the petitioner filed a petition against the Respondent for Divorce you are required to appear in the Court on the 3rd day of March 2025 at 10:30 am in person or by pleader duly instructs and able to answer all material question relating to the above proceeding.
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The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/TD/T/2025/07. Name of work:-** Electrical TRD portion of work in connection with Wadi yard-Shifting of point & Starter signals by 40m towards Solapur end for increasing CSL of NRD lines. **Estimated cost:-** ₹ 1,13,00,772.98/- **Bid Security:-** ₹2,06,500/- **Completion Period:-** 12 months **Validity of offer:-** 60 **Days Date & time of tender closing on website:-** 24.03.2025 at 15.00 hours. ANJ-37
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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गोड्डा

अल्पकालीन ई–पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
अल्पकालीन ई0–निविदा संख्याः– 12/2024-25/RI/RWD/EE/GODDA
दिनांकः 24-02-2024

कार्य का विवरणः मुख्यमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना अन्तर्गत कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गोड्डा द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

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1	RWD/EE/GODDA / 04/2024-25	परसा हॉस्पीटल से रनिया तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं0–1.800 कि0मी0), प्रखंड– महागामा	2,55,51,100.00	दो करोड़ पचपन लाख इकावन हजार एक सौ रू0 मात्र	12(बारह) माह	द्वितीय
2	RWD/EE/GODDA / 07/2024-25	ललमटिया दिग्घी पथ से मंसूरा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं0–1.000 कि0मी0), प्रखंड– महागामा	1,20,91,800.00	एक करोड़ बीस लाख इकानबे हजार आठ सौ रू0 मात्र	09(नौ) माह	द्वितीय
3	RWD/EE/GODDA / 13/2024-25	बसुआरा कारू घर से सरोतिया मुख्य सड़क भाया जागीर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं0–1.000 कि0मी0), प्रखंड– महागामा	1,49,05,300.00	एक करोड़ उनचास लाख पाँच हजार तीन सौ रू0 मात्र	09(नौ) माह	द्वितीय
4	RWD/EE/GODDA / 14/2024-25	विश्वासखानी उच्च विद्यालय से प्रेमनगर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं0–2.100 कि0मी0), प्रखंड– महागामा	3,72,47,100.00	तीन करोड़ बहत्तर लाख सैतालीस हजार एक सौ रू0 मात्र	15(पन्द्रह) माह	द्वितीय

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 28.02.2024
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 17.03.2025 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :–19.03..2025 अपराह्न 11.30 बजे।
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5. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का मोबाईल नं0 :– 9973573276
6. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
7. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
8. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–शुल्क भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जबाबदेही आपकी होगी।

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कार्यपालक अभियंता
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PR.NO.347232 Rural Development(24-25):D

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SyndicateBank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

E-Auction Sale of Properties on 19.03.2025
Last date of EMD : 18.03.2025

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080-25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is". "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 19.03.2025, Sl.No.1 (10.00 AM to 10.30 AM), Sl.No.2 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM),** through E-Auction underthe Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920** during office hours on any working day.
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **18.03.2025 - 5.00 pm** **(₹. in lakhs)**

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the movable / immovable assets:	Total Dues Type of Possession	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time
1.	**(1) M/s. Bangalore Tiles India Pvt. ltd.,** No.13/09/10, 2nd Stage, 5th Cross, okalipuram Bengaluru, Karnataka-560021. **(2) Mr Sunil Gandhi,** No.35/1 Ranka Nest Appartment Flat No.231 3rd Floor Okalipuram Bangalore-560021. **(3) Mr Rajesh Gandhi,** No.35/1 Ranka Nest Appartment, Flat No.231, 3rd Floor, Okalipuram Bangalore 560021.	Commercial Land and Building Constructed as basement + GF + FF + SF + terrace floor, Corporation Property No.13/9/10, BBMP No.13/9-10 Labour Quarter No.18,HSMI Estate 2nd Stage, 5th Cross, Okalipuram, BBMP Ward No.21, Bangalore-560021. Total Extent of the Plot 2528 Sq.ft. Bounded: East by: Hansha Shah's Property, West by : Maithri Plastics, North by: Dinesh Kothari's Property, South by: Road. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude- 12.984452, Longitude- 77.566663**	**Rs. 51020429.76 as on 23.03.2025 with further interest and cost thereon. Symbolic possession**	**a) 309.65 b) 30.965 c) 1.00**	**11.03.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
2.	**(1) Mrs. Nikita Patil** W/o. Mr. Siddharta Patil, H No.78, Swamy Vivekananda Layout, Sagar Road, Shimoga – 577 201. **(2) Mrs. Nikita Patil** No.684, 5th Cross, North Block, Upkar Layout, Upkar Residency, Bangalore – 560 056. **(3) Mr. Deepak** C/o Shankar Rao, S-257, 13th Main, 4th Cross, BEL Layout, Bharath Nagar, Bangalore-560 091. **(4) Mr. Deepak** No.36, 4th Cross, Income Tax Layout, BEL Layout 2nd Stage, Bharat Nagar, Bengaluru-560 091.	Residential Flat bearing no.701, comprising of 3 BHK, in 7th floor of 'PRISTINE VARA' being built in property bearing Muncipal no. 123, situated at Infantry road, Muncipal ward no. 78 of Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru and in all approximately measuring 10397 Sq.Ft. out of 12059 Sq.Ft. and bounded by: East: Road, West: Private property, North: Infantry road and South: Private property out of which 450 sq.ft. of undivided share, right , title, interest and ownership having super built up area of 2500 Sq.Ft. and carpet area measuring 1665 sq.ft. and right to use common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common usage and one covered car parking space in basement bounded on: East: By Private property, West: By Private Property, North: Road, South: By Flat no. 702. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.980972, Longitude- 77.601889**	**Rs. 71056946.64 as on 23.02.2025 with further interest and cost thereon Physical possession**	**a) ₹. 294.75 b) ₹. 29.48 c) ₹.1.00**	**11.03.2025 10.00 AM to 02.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com)** or **https://baanknet.com** may contact **Chief Manager, ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920** during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 25.02.2025

Sd/-
Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
SyndicateBank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office : Bangalore

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 18.03.2025
Last date of EMD : 17.03.2025

ARM – I Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310066. E-Mail – cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **18.03.2025** at **1. 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM, 2. 10:30 AM TO 11:00 AM** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **17.03.2025 5.00 pm.**
(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection Date & Time
1.	**1. M/s Mahabaleshwar Enterprises,** No. 71/2, 1st Floor, 1st cross, 8th Main, MSR Road Mathikere, Bangalore – 560054 **2. Mr. Mahabaleshwar Bhat,** No. 71/2, 1st Floor, 1st cross, 8th Main, MSR Road Mathikere, Bangalore – 560054 **3. Mr. Vinayaka Hebbar,** No. 158/16, 1st Floor, 14th Cross, Kanshiram Nagar, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore- 560097 **4. Mr. Sathyanarayana Rao,** No. 13, Raghavendra Badavane, Sorab, Shimoga district, -577429 **5. Mrs. S. Saraswathi,** No. 35, Anugraha, 7th Cross krishnappa Block Ganganagar, Bangalore North- 560032 **6. Mr. M. Krishnamurthy,** No. 2765, Sridhama, E Block, Near Swathi Gardenia, Kodigehalli and Byatarayanapura Village Hebbal, Bangalore North- 560092.	Residential site situated at no. 18, BBMP khata no. 894, PID no. 894, Khata no. 894-578/18 of BBMP formed in Sy. No. 29/2, ward no. 12 Abbigere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring east to west (48+30)/2 feet and north to south (35+22)/2 feet total 1111.50 sqft, bounded on: **East-** Site No. 19, **West-** Road, **North-** Road, **South -** Private Property. Coordinates of the property **Latitude- 13.075389 Longitude- 77.522139**	**Rs. 7,51,89,037.81** plus further interest and cost thereon	**a) ₹ 38.01 b) ₹ 3.80 c) ₹ 1.00**	**10.03.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
2.	**1. M/s Air Pegasus Pvt Ltd,** No. 21/15, M G Road, Bangalore-56001. **2. Sri Shyson Thomas S/o Late P C Joseph,** Residing at # 637/1, Ashwin Manor, Air Port Road,HAL Post, Bangalore 560017. **3. Mrs. Shyana Thomas W/o Shyson Thomas,** Residing at # 637/1, Ashwin Manor, Air Port Road, HAL Post, Bangalore-560017. **4. Mr. Ashwin Thomas S/o Shyson Thomas,** Residing at # 637/1, Ashwin Manor, Air Port Road, HAL Post, Bangalore-560017. **5. M/s Décor Aviation Pvt Ltd,** # 22 and 23, 3rd Main, Air view Colony, HAL, Bangalore-560017.	Property bearing HASB Khatha No.637/1, situated at Konena Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and measuring East to West 50 Feet and North to South 25+35/2 Feet. Total extent of the land 1500 Sq.ft. Coordinates of the property **Latitude- 12.57368 N Longitude- 77.39344 E**	**Rs. 5,28,27,130.69** as on **18.02.2025** plus further interest and cost thereon	**a) ₹ 150.90 b) ₹ 15.10 c) ₹ 1.00**	**10.03.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
		Property bearing Site No.27, old katha No. 65/2, New BBMP Khatha No. 6, old Site No. 38, New Khatha No. 65/2, New No. 27/A, 5th Cross, Muniswamappa Layout, Konena Agrahara, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore. Total extent of the land 2258 Sq.ft. Coordinates of the property **Latitude- 12.57370 N Longitude- 77.39349 E**		**a) ₹ 280.50 b) ₹ 20.85 c) ₹ 1.00**	
		Residential land with extent of site measuring 14.16 are & building measuring 64.80 sq. meters & bearing Sy No.54, 55 & 902, Chennamangalam village, Paravur taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala. Total extent of the land 64.80 Sq.ft. Coordinates of the property **Latitude- 10.186240 Longitude- 76.204842**		**a) ₹ 78.00 b) ₹ 7.80 c) ₹ 1.00**	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 25.02.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26	
RISE 06:37	SET 18:28
RISE 05:12	SET 16:58
THURSDAY, FEB. 27	
RISE 06:36	SET 18:28
RISE 06:00	SET 17:57
FRIDAY, FEB. 28	
RISE 06:36	SET 18:28
RISE 06:45	SET 18:54

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	21
Mysuru	33	17
Bengaluru	32	18

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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Closing down of UGC-affiliated varsities not easy: Ashwath Narayan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The close down of universities affiliated with the University Grants Commission (UGC) is not easy, said former Higher Education Minister and senior BJP leader C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

In an interaction with the media on Tuesday, the former Minister talking about the State government's plan to close down nine public universities, said the closing down of private affiliated colleges itself is a big process. "It is not as easy as they think to close down established public universities," he added.

Three universities - Mandya Unitary University, Maharani Cluster University, and Nrupatunga University - were established following the recognition they received at the national level, he said. "All three were established under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA-now PMUSA). In the first phase, eight colleges were identified at the national level to establish cluster universities, and Maharani College for Women was one. Among four Unitary universities, Mandya government college was one. It was a pride for the State," Mr. Narayan said. The government science college was identified in RUSA's second phase as a unitary university, he added.

Going a step further, Mr. Narayan said, "When BJP comes to power, we will establish universities in every district."

Co-Innovation Centre set up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a stride towards innovation and research, Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology (NMIT) has partnered with the I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC) to establish the Co-Innovation Centre (CiC) at NMIT.

This collaboration places NMIT among the top ten institutions in the country to set up such a centre, highlighting the institute's focus on advancing innovation and research in the deep tech domain.

The inauguration of the centre took place on February 21, at the NMIT campus, marking the beginning of a new chapter in fostering industry-academia partnerships and breakthrough advancements in cutting-edge technology. The Co-Innovation Centre is designed to serve as a hub for collaborative research, providing an environment that promotes the development of new ideas and solutions in deep tech sectors.

M.S. Moodithaya, V-C, Nitte (Deemed to be University), was the chief guest. He emphasised on the role of teachers in inspiring students to go beyond conventional classroom learning.

He added that educators should not only impart knowledge but also motivate students to become entrepreneurs who will drive the future of India. He expressed his confidence that the CiC at NMIT will provide a platform for students to bring their innovative ideas to life, turning them into successful ventures that will contribute to the nation's technological advancement.

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

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Corrigendum to R-02/2024
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- Library & Information Assistant
- Accountant

For details and online application, please visit www.iimk.ac.in

Sd/-
Lt. Col. M Julius George (Retd.)
Head-Administration & HR

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CORRIGENDUM

Advertisement No. 02/25 has been revised to **Advertisement No. 02(A)/25** and supersedes the former.

This advertisement will be published in Employment News shortly and is also available on NTPC careers portal **(careers.ntpc.co.in)**.

In view of the same, the last date of application has been extended to **12.03.2025**.

Leading the Power Sector

GENERAL

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SRI D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF 21 MONTHS PERFORMANCE OF FOUR STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATIONS

- Approval accorded for induction of **5800** new Buses
- Inducted **4891** New Buses (KSRTC-1165, BMTC-1854, NWKRTC-856, KKRTC 1016)
- Inducted Pallakki, Ashwamedha Classic, Airavath Club Class 2.0, Kalyana Ratha, Ambaari Utsav, Amogha Varsha New Buses
- Approval accorded for Recruitment of **9000** posts
- Appointment order issued to **2000** Driver-Cum-Conductors and **300** Technical Assistants
- Recruitment of **6500** posts (KSRTC 2000 Driver-Cum-Conductors, BMTC-2500 Conductors, NWKRTC-1000 Drivers, 1000 Conductors) will be completed soon
- **1452** Buses have been refurbished
- No. of Trips prior to Shakthi **154955** has increased to **176787,** an increase of **21832** trips per day
- Introduced Digital UPI payments in buses and **AWATAR 4.0** with value additions
- Recruited **1000** dependents of the deceased employees on compassionate grounds
- Disbursed **Rs.1 crore** cheque to the dependents of the deceased employees who met with accidents (On duty/Off duty)
- Enhancement of Accident Relief Compensation from previous paid amount **Rs.3 lakh** to **Rs.10 lakh** to dependents of the passengers who died in Bus accident
- **Namma Cargo** logistics service introduced with 20 trucks
- KSRTC, BMTC and KKRTC have entered MoU with Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research Institute for conducting **Heart Related Medical Check ups for its Employees**
- **Sarige Vidya Chethana Scheme** scholarship amount of Rs.2.60 Cr. have been disbursed till now
- **Cashless** Medical facilities to NWKRTC staff with KIMS and other major Government Hospitals
- The Family Welfare Insurance Scheme compensation enhanced from **Rs.3 lakh** to **Rs.10 lakh** to the family of the deceased employee who have expired reasons other than accident
- **KSRTC AROGYA:** Cashless/Limitless Medical facility scheme introduced from 06-01-2025, MoU with 340+ hospitals across the State to the employees of 34000 and their dependents around 1.17 lakhs

DETAILS OF SHAKTI GUARANTEE FROM 11.06.2023 TO 24.02.2025 (IN CRORES)

DETAILS	KSRTC	BMTC	NWKRTC	KKRTC	TOTAL
Total Number of Passengers Travelled	207.86	216.58	151.25	105.97	681.66
Total Number of Women Passengers	121.17	127.42	93.06	58.35	400.00
Ticket value of women Passengers Travelled (Amount in Rs.)	3708.51	1695.84	2419.99	1979.53	9803.87

STATE RTC'S HAVE WON MORE THAN 153 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS DURING LAST 21 MONTHS. THE SAME IS DEDICATED TO THE COMMITTED STAFF AND TRAVELING PUBLIC

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATIONS
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Accomplished as promised

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

From Page One

SC refuses to intervene in graft case against HDK

Mr. Kumaraswamy's challenge against the case was dismissed by both the State High Court and later the apex court itself in 2016.

However, a closure report on the case was filed, incidentally when Mr. Kumaraswamy returned as Chief Minister in 2018. The Special Judge had however rejected the closure report and summoned him in 2019.

He had also challenged the summons in the High Court, which had noted that the charges against him were serious and found no ground to interfere. This led Mr. Kumaraswamy to approach the Supreme Court primarily on the ground that he was a public servant and the trial could not proceed without a valid sanction to prosecute him.

On Tuesday, Mr. Rohatgi said an amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act in 2018 protected him from prosecution and the case ought to be quashed.

Justice Datta said the requirement of sanction was to protect public servants from being entangled in frivolous complaints. Justice Bindal pointed out that the closure report in the case was filed when Mr. Kumaraswamy became Chief Minister for the second time. "He is a former Chief Minister. He cannot get away saying denotification was an error and everything else was an error," Justice Datta said at one point.

Senior advocate Harin Rawal along with Karnataka Additional Advocate General Aman Panwar argued that no protection of sanction ought to be extended to Mr. Kumaraswamy as he has ceased to hold the office of Chief Minister. They further contended that the amendment of 2018 cannot be used to seek protection to crime committed before it came into force.

Party positions only for those who work: DKS

His statement is being seen in the light of power struggle in Congress State unit over leadership

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the possibility of a reshuffle of office-bearers at the grassroots level in the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday said party positions were rewarded only to those who work sincerely, and to not "those who lobby with Ministers in Bengaluru".

"We need people who work sincerely on the ground, at the taluk level, and not those who are with Ministers in Bengaluru. We are prioritising those who work on the ground and get results," the Deputy Chief Minister told presspersons here before leaving for Delhi. His response came to a question on dropping close aides of some Cabinet Ministers.

Mr. Shivakumar's statement is being seen in the light of the power struggle in the party's State unit over leadership. Amid a call to replace Mr. Shivakumar as KPCC president by a section of leaders, who are seen to be close to the Chief Minister, he held a meeting of defeated candidates on Monday to show that he intends to remain in the position till the next Assembly election in 2028.

He said that although the list was ready, it would not be submitted immediately to the party high command. "The list is ready but will not be submitted. Some of those who are not keen on the roles should be replaced. We need people who work round the clock on the ground. There is no point in appointing office-bearers under pressure or influence," he said when asked if the list would be submitted to the high command.

"The AICC has clearly asked us to prioritise those willing to work hard. We are also giving priority to women in view of the reservation. We are taking Ministers' feedback on this and the list will be finalised this week," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar speaking to presspersons on Tuesday.

> We need people who work sincerely on the ground, at the taluk level, and not those who are with Ministers in Bengaluru. We are prioritising those who work on the ground and get results.
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR,** Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president

Issues to be raised

During his visit to Delhi, the Deputy Chief Minister is expected to discuss the infighting in the party and raise the issue of Ministers close to the Chief Minister making statements in public despite a clear instructions not to do so.

State seeks Centre's nod and ₹11,122 crore for irrigation projects

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Tuesday petitioned the Centre for approval and funding of ₹11,122 crore for pending irrigation project works in north Karnataka that includes Tungabhadra left bank canal, Ghataprabha right bank canal, Upper Krisha Project's Indi canal, Malaprabha canal extension, restoration, and modernisation, and Sonthi lift-irrigation project. The State has sought funding under the PMKSY-AIBP scheme.

A delegation from the State, led by Minister for Major and Medium Irrigation D.K. Shivakumar and comprising Minor Irrigation Minister Bose Raju and Minister of State for Jal Shakti V. Somanna, called on Union Minister for Jal Shakti C.R. Patil in Delhi on Tuesday to press for the State's demands.

The State has submitted proposal for the 226-km Tungabhadra left bank canal extension, restoration, and modernisation at a cost of ₹1,444.42 crore. Financial assistance of ₹1,596.98 crore has been sought for modernisation of the Ghataprabha right bank main canal, and Chikkodi canal.

For mitigation of floods in the region between Bennihalli and Malaprabha sangam, the State has sought funds of ₹1,610 crore.

The Sonthi lift-irrigation project is meant to lift water from the Sonthi barrage to pump 4 tmcft water to parched Chittapur and irrigate 16,000 hectares. While the DPR at a cost of ₹673.9 crore was submitted in 2015, the cost has now escalated to ₹804.66 crore. For the upper Krishna project's 172-km Indi canal that irrigates 1.31 lakh hectares in Kalaburagi, Yadgir, and Vijayapura districts, the State is seeking ₹2,666.7 crore to extend, restore, and modernise 108-km stretch. The State is expecting ₹3,000 crore for the third phase work of the Malaprabha canal.

Lokayukta SIT submits translated chargesheet against HDK to Governor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is probing the illegal mining cases, recently submitted an English translation of a chargesheet against Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy, to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot.

The Governor is yet to convey his decision to the SIT's request for sanction to prosecute Mr. Kumaraswamy, who is also a former Chief Minister, sources said.

The Governor had, in a first, sought an English translation of the entire chargesheet on August 28, 2024, days after the State Cabinet "advised" him to take a call on all requests for sanction for prosecution pending before him on August 22, 2024.

This was preceded by the Governor sanctioning prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged MUDA scam. The file requesting prosecution of Mr. Kumaraswamy was pending before the Governor from November, 2023.

The case pertains to the alleged contravention of norms while granting mining lease to a private firm. A case was registered against Mr. Kumaraswamy under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Meanwhile, the Lokayukta police have also submitted an English translation of the chargesheet against mining baron and BJP leader, G. Janardhana Reddy, to the Governor, a few weeks ago, the sources said.

The Governor had returned the file seeking sanction to prosecute him as well, seeking a translation of the chargesheet.

BJP rebels hold meet of Lingayat leaders to enlist their support

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rebel leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday organised a meeting of Lingayat leaders in Bengaluru to enlist the support of the community in their fight for replacing party State president B.Y. Vijayendra, who also belongs to the community.

Over 60 Lingayat leaders, who are opposed to Mr. Vijayendra's leadership, attended the meeting convened by Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, who leads the group, in Bengaluru.

All the leaders who attended the meeting maintained that there were "more prominent Lingayat leaders" in the BJP such as Mr. Yatnal and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. They also announced that a delegation of Lingayat leaders would go to Delhi soon to seek a leadership change in Karnataka. The meeting of rebel Lingayats comes just a few days ahead of the election to the post of the party State president. It is being seen in the BJP as an attempt by the rebels, particularly Mr. Yatnal, to enlist the support of community members to counter Mr. Vijayendra, who is keen on retaining his post.

Meanwhile, the rebels' action evoked a sharp response from Mr. Vijayendra's camp. A prominent member of this camp, M.P. Renukacharya, ridiculed the meeting by saying that those who had been "rejected" as leaders had participated in the meeting.

He also declared that their group would organise a massive convention of Lingayats soon to strengthen the hands of Mr. Vijayendra and his father, B.S. Yediyurappa. They would also hold a meeting of Lingayat seers as a precursor to the proposed convention, he said.

Meanwhile, the continuing infighting in the Opposition BJP, especially ahead of the legislature session, has caused concern in the party. Speaking to *The Hindu*, a prominent State leader observed that it could affect the party's morale during the session in which party leaders want to put the government on the mat over several issues, especially the leadership tussle in the Congress.

Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal

We will discuss restricting guarantees to BPL families only if Oppn. moots it: Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday said there could be a discussion on restricting the guarantee schemes to below the poverty line (BPL) families only if the Opposition makes a proposal to restrict them.

Legislator's suggestion

Speaking to reporters here, the Home Minister said Turuvekere legislator M.T. Krishnappa had in the Tumakuru KDP meeting suggested that the guarantees could be restricted to BPL families. "I had then said that if the Opposition makes a proposal, we are willing to discuss it. Many people are voluntarily dropping out of the guarantee schemes. They include government officials and income tax payers. As an extension, Mr. Krishnappa had suggested that the guarantees could be restricted to the poor."

> BJP is unhappy with the success of the guarantees and it is trying to derail them.
>
> **G. PARAMESHWARA,** Home Minister

Dr. Parameshwara said, "The pros and cons have to be discussed. During elections, we had not announced that the guarantees were meant only for BPL families." He further said that there was no doubt about the guarantees being a burden on the exchequer. "Can it be considered a burden since the guarantees are given to the poor? Knowing fully well the pros and cons, the guarantees have been implemented in Karnataka."

Meant for the poor

Dr. Parameshwara said the BJP was unhappy with the success of the guarantees and it was trying to derail them. The guarantees were meant for the poor, and that the BJP does not want the government to help the poor financially, he said.

Free bus travel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The KSRTC will allow students appearing for II PUC and SSLC annual exams to travel for free in its city, suburban, ordinary, and express buses during the exam period – March 1 to 20 and March 21 to April 4.

TAMILNADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU UNDERTAKING)
5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai- 35.

e-Tender Notice

e- Tender Ref.No:61/2024-25, Appointment of Contractor for supply of manpower at various departments at Alangulam Cement Works, Alangulam, Virudhunagar District.
Est. Value: **Rs.5.92 Crore, EMD: Rs.3,00,000/-**
Submission of tender: Up to 12.00 Noon on 28-03-2025.
Important Note:
A pre-bid meeting will be held on 05-03-2025 at 3.00 pm at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035.
The Tender document can be downloaded from **https://tntenders.gov.in** Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.

DIPR/740/TENDER/2025 **GENERAL MANAGER (MARKETING) / DRO**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Executive Engineer-3, Health & Sanitation,
Dasappa Hospital Premises, N.R Road, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No.EE-3/H&S/TEND/10/2024-25 **Date: 25.02.2025**

SHORT TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e - Procurement Portal Only)

1. The Executive Engineer-3, Health and Sanitation on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing Contractor for Improvemenets and Development of Burial ground and Crematoriums in 8 zones of BBMP for the works as detailed in the table below. Two Cover Bid procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. **2.** Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. **3.** Proposals must be submitted online through KPPP on or before 16.30 Hrs on **21.03.2025** and the opening of bids will be as per the KPPP portal guidelines. **4.** Other details can be seen in the RFP tender document

Sl. No.	Name of Assignment /Amount put to tender (excluding GST) Rs in lakhs/ EMD amount in Rs.
1	Improvemenets and Development of Burial ground and Crematoriums in East, Bommanahalli and Mahadevapura Zone-Pkg-1. Amount Put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs) : **397.67,** EMD (in Rupees)**: 5,97,000/-.**
2	Improvemnets and development of Burial ground and Crematoriums in South and RR Nagar Zone-Pkg-2 Amount Put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs) : **398.20,** EMD (in Rupees)**: 5,98,000/-.**
3	Improvemnets and development of Burial ground and Crematoriums in West, Yelahanka and Dasarahalli Zone- Pkg-3. Amount Put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs) : **397.97,** EMD (in Rupees)**: 5,97,000/-.**

Calendar Events:
1. Availability of RFP Document from **01.03.2025 at 16.00 Hrs** onwards.
2. Last Date for Receipt of Queries **10.03.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs.**
3. Date of Pre bid meeting at the office of Special Commissioner (H&S) on **10.03.2025 at 15.30 Hrs.**
4. Last Date for receipt of Tenders is **21.03.2025 at 16.00 Hrs.**
5. Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **24.03.2025 at 16.30 Hrs.**
6. Opening of financial bids will be intimated to technically qualified bidders.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-3, Health and Sanitation, BBMP.

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Off: "Samparka Soudha", Survey No. 8, (B.E.P. Premises), Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bangalore - 560 010. Telephone: 080-22024000
Fax: 080-22024000 E-mail: mdkrdcl@gmail.com, website: www.krdcl.in

No: KRDCL/IFB/2024-25/28 **Date:25.02.2025**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal)

RFP for "Development of Road from Devanahalli-Vemagal-Kolar (from 0.00 km to 49.284 km) of SH-96 (Design length 48.20 km) in the state of Karnataka on PPP-DBFOMT-Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)"

The Government of Karnataka (GoK) entrusted to the Authority for development, maintenance and management of Road from Devanahalli-Vemagal-Kolar (from 0.000 km to 49.284 km) of SH-96 (Design length 48.20 km) in the state of Karnataka on PPP-DBFOMT-Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM). The Authority had resolved to Construct Road from Devanahalli-Vemagal-Kolar (from 0.000 km to 49.284 km) of SH-96 (Design length 48.20 km) in the state of Karnataka (the "Project") on design, build, finance, operate, maintain and transfer (the "DBFOMT Annuity" or "Hybrid Annuity") basis, and has decided to carry out the bidding process for selection of a private entity as the Bidder to whom the Project may be awarded. Brief particulars of the Project are as follows:

Project Name	Length in KM	Concession Period	Estimated Project Cost (Excluding GST) (Rs. in Crore)*
Development of Road from Devanahalli-Vemagal-Kolar (from 0.000 km to 49.284 km) of SH-96 (Design length 48.20 km) in the state of Karnataka on PPP-DBFOMT-Hybrid Annuity Mode	**48.20**	15 years (including 2 years construction period and 13 years operation and maintenance period)	**762.86**

**** The Estimated Project Cost includes EPC cost, Interest during construction, Financing cost, Physical & Price Contingency and other elements***

The complete bid document can be viewed/downloaded from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of GoK. Bids must be submitted online only at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of GoK on or before **16-04-2025 (upto 17:30 hours IST).** Technical submissions of the bids received online shall be opened **on 19-04-2025 (at 11:30 hours IST).**

Please note that henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of GoK/KRDCL website www.krdcl.in

Bid submitted through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, Power of Attorney for signing of Bid, Power of Attorney for lead member of Consortium, if any, Joint Bidding Agreement for Consortium, if any, and experience certificates, and other documents required as per RFP shall be submitted physically in original as further detailed in the RFP. Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DIPR/CP/5310/Zen/2024-25

Sd/- Managing Director
KRDCL, Bengaluru

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

KALAVATHI BALAKRISHNAN
24 FEBRUARY 2025
W/O S P Balakrishnan

Our dearest
Kala/Chechi/Mami/Perima/ Manni/Akka/Mom/Amma
is no more. But her legacy as a gold medalist student, a beloved teacher and stories of her legendary will power live on.

Somehow, Amma was always there for everyone. A conscientious daughter, dutiful wife, loving sister, the best mother, a wonderful friend and Amma to many.

May her life continue to remind us all of the power of giving always. And that the simplest of lives can be transformed with a "can do" attitude.

Mourned by her husband, **S P Balakrishnan** and daughters **Geeta** and **Bharati.**

Contact us at **kashyapbk@gmail.com**

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

9th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Birth 22.04.1935 — Death 26.02.2016

Shri V.Narayana Rao Panth
(Retd. Audit Officer, AG'S Office, Chennai)
Fondly Remembered by
Wife, Sons, Son in law, Daughter, Daughters in law, Grand sons Grand Daughters & Great Grand Daughter.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Dignitaries at the launch of the guidance document in the city. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

How to marry art to public spaces

Consulting firm Zinnov has launched a guidance document that presents a blow-by-blow account of the process of integrating art into public spaces

Liffy Thomas
BENGALURU

The Ministry of Works and Housing mandates that one percent of the cost entailed in the construction of a public building be reserved for works of art. That is a precondition for approval of a public project. The artworks at Mumbai and Bengaluru airports reflect this rule, and they do blend into the landscape. However, hurdles have to be crossed to achieve this, from choosing a particular work of art to incorporating it seamlessly into a public space.

Recently, at an event at Bangalore International Centre, global management and strategy consulting firm Zinnov released a guidance document "Integrating Art Into Public Spaces" to show how to deal with those hurdles. Prepared in collaboration with Yamini Telkar, former head of Art Programme at Bangalore International Airport Limited, this document is in the public domain.

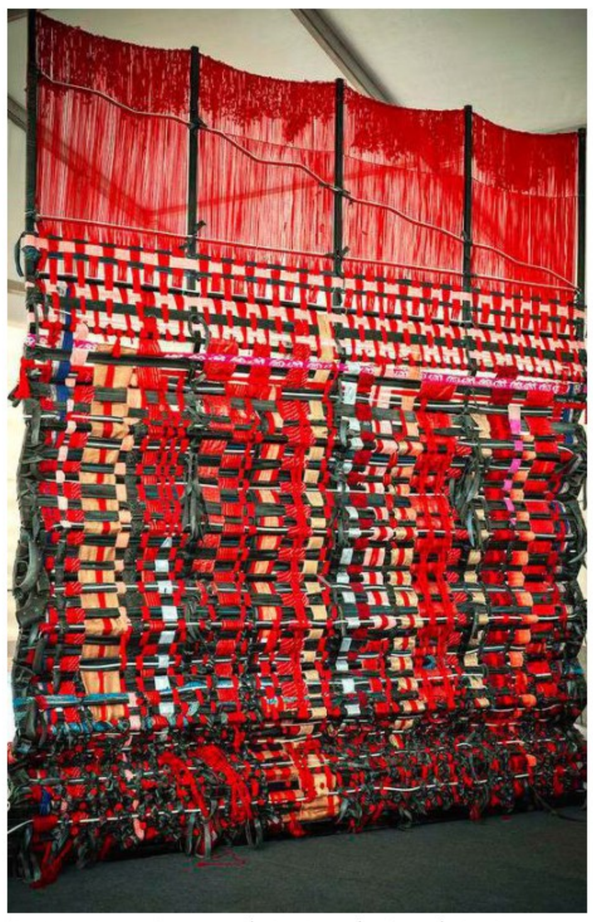
A set of standards

The document is an attempt to establish a set of standards for high quality and accessible public spaces. It hopes to inspire like-minded corporates and individuals to adopt, implement and sustain projects in public spaces.

It is a handbook for identifying an appropriate art form for a public space, planning the budget, selecting artworks, navigating regulatory procedures and addressing the questions of maintenance and decommissioning.

Elaborating on the opportunity in this area, Pari Natarajan, CEO of Zinnov, said as per reports India was going to spend 1.72 trillion dollars in infrastructure projects in the next five years.

"If we were to consider 1-2% of public infrastructure being spent on art then we are looking at 17 to 34 billion dollars in art projects in India in the next five years. This is like the golden age of public art," said Natarajan.



'Past Continuous,' an art exploring Bengaluru's evolution into Silicon Valley. RAVI HARIANI

Yamini Telkar, former Head of the Art Programme, BIAL, and Shanthamani Muddaiah, sculpture artist, at the event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Growing spaces

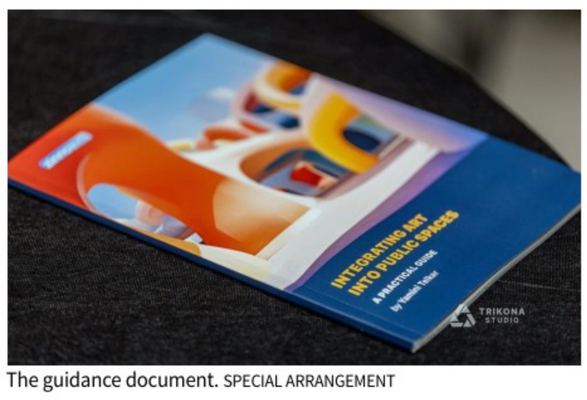
With demand for office space growing, there is opportunity in art as well.

"By 2030, 124 million sq ft. of office space will be leased with Bangalore being the front office for many Fortune 500 companies. The way these offices are being designed is changing with a lot more collaborative spaces and an opportunity to include art in these corporate public spaces," said Natarajan. Zinnov is currently working on a three-year road map to integrate art in public spaces by following the 4 A's (Awareness, Advice, Assemble and Action). Natarajan announced they would be collaborating with various stakeholders including the government, corporate leaders across realty, technology, and hospitality sectors to make art in public spaces more appealing.

It will also focus on implementation which will have Zinnov lend its expertise in providing end-to-end support for art integration, including project conceptualisation, budget planning, and resource management. "We are working to create a larger ecosystem where we have enough curators and artists," he said, adding that there was a need to build a case internally for art in CSR. This initiative is also aimed at creating an ecosystem of curators, urban planners, designers, architects, government officials and corporate partners.

Heena Pari, Visual Artist, Creative Consultant and Advisor, Zinnov, pointed that they launched the "Public Spaces Initiative" by the installation of "Past Continuous" - an art piece exploring Bengaluru's evolution into Silicon Valley.

The guidance document can be accessed on https://tinyurl.com/3u4axa38



The guidance document. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

An illustration

At the launch of the guidance document, two artists – Yamini Telkar and Shanthamani Muddaiah – associated with integrating art at the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) held court. They shared their experience working on the BIAL project.

"We had a stakeholder engagement in 2019 at BIAL where we had artists, architects and the community attending it and this was before anything was crystallised," says Yamini Telkar, Curator and former Head of the Art Programme, BIAL.

This was important because the T2 project at the Airport was defined as an "art programme" and not just another critical beautification project.

Open calls for art works from artists and integrating feedback were among the marked ways in which the conversations kept going. Emphasising the role of various players, Yamini says to make art in a public space work it must have the handwork of planners, people who are managing the space and those who are supposed to maintain it.

For art to be integrated into a public space, it has to become part of the environment and spark some change, said Yamini. "The key to integrating art into the public domain is to make it accessible and transparent and this document will help one walk through those steps," she added.

Shanthamani Muddaiah, sculpture artist who has "Medhoot" installed in the Airport, felt putting art work at public spaces is more democratic and liberating. She also noted that compromises happen when art is featured in public spaces.

An artwork inside Terminal-2 of Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport. FILE PHOTO

Banyan Tree's 18th edition to celebrate classical music

Shruti Vishwakarma. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Banyan Tree will present the 18th edition of *Teen Prahar* on Thursday, February 27. Held at the iconic Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Gayathri Devi Park Extension, Malleswaram, the event promises to deliver a rich, immersive musical experience, beginning at 6 p.m. The event is titled, Shishya's Collective Ensemble: A Collaborative Fusion of Talent.

The event will open with an ensemble featuring Shruti Vishwakarma and Swar Sharma, both showcasing their vocal prowess. Their renditions will be complemented by the mastery of Sandeep Mishra on the Sarangi, Hrishikesh Majumdar on the Flute, Rohit Deo on the Tabla, and Tejas Katoti on the Harmonium.

Following the ensemble, the audience will be treated to an exhilarating sitar performance by the legendary Ustad Shujaat Khan. Known for his profound mastery over the instrument, Ustad Shujaat Khan is an artist whose playing captures the essence of Hindustani classical music.

The evening will culminate with a Hindustani vocal concert by Pandit Venkatesh Kumar. Pandit Kumar's renditions are known to convey the deep emotional content of each raga, making his concerts a truly transformative experience.

Tickets are available at www.bookmyshow.com

NIMHANS consultative meeting on strengthening student mental health

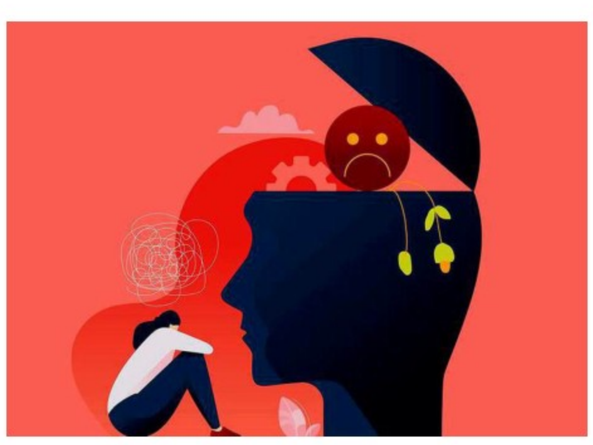
The meeting focussed on engaging the youth as active collaborators and agents of change to start conversations on mental health

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To co-develop a comprehensive campus-based model for suicide risk reduction and strengthening support systems for mental health, NIMHANS organised a consultative meeting on student mental health on Tuesday.

The consultative meeting, held as part of a multi-state National Health Research Priority project initiated by the Indian Council of Medical Research, focussed on engaging youth as active collaborators and agents of change to start conversations on mental health, destigmatise reaching out for help when in distress, engage in supportive interactions with peers in distress and facilitate help seeking through appropriate sources.

To be done through sensitisation and training of stakeholders including teachers and leaders in campuses, the consultative meeting involved training of teachers for early identification of students in distress, providing and mobilising first line support and appropriate referrals as per need. Dissemination of self -help resources for students to use in online and offline formats as per their needs and preferences was also touched upon. NIMHANS director Pratima Murthy highlighted the challenges and pressures experienced by the youth in this era. She emphasized on the need for collaborative efforts, sharing of insights and mutual learning across campuses, reiterating the need for a strengths-based approach as well as measures to enhance mental health support for students in need.



The participants included about 125 administrative heads of schools, pre-university colleges from 90 educational campuses GETTY IMAGES

The participants included about 125 administrative heads of schools, pre-university colleges from 90 educational campuses, including government, aided and private institutions, with representation of a range of disciplines at higher education levels such as arts, science, commerce, engineering, pharmacy, medicine, dental, nursing and physiotherapy.

Seema Mehrotra, Professor of Clinical Psychology at NIMHANS, who is the lead investigator of this project at NIMHANS, said that the project team involves experts across departments at the premier mental health institution who are supporting the implementation, in collaboration with the State Departments of Education and Health. Officials from these departments who are serving as nodal officers for this project participated in this meeting.

A series of moderated group discussions were held at the school, PU and college levels to identify a sustainable model for the state of student mental health.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 26, 1975

Party Discusses Minister's Absence from Legislature

Bengaluru, Feb. 26: The Congress Legislature Party, at its meeting here to-night, was stated to have taken serious note of the phenomenon of Ministers absenting themselves frequently from both the Houses which are currently in session, inviting adverse comments from the presiding officers. Party sources said that a large number of members who participated in to-day's deliberations expressed themselves freely on the issue of the Ministers' frequent absence. The issue came to be raised by the Secretary of the Legislature Party, Mr. R. S. Patil, who confessed that he had been feeling greatly embarrassed and helpless and had been driven to the necessity of chasing Ministers to get them to be present in the two Houses.

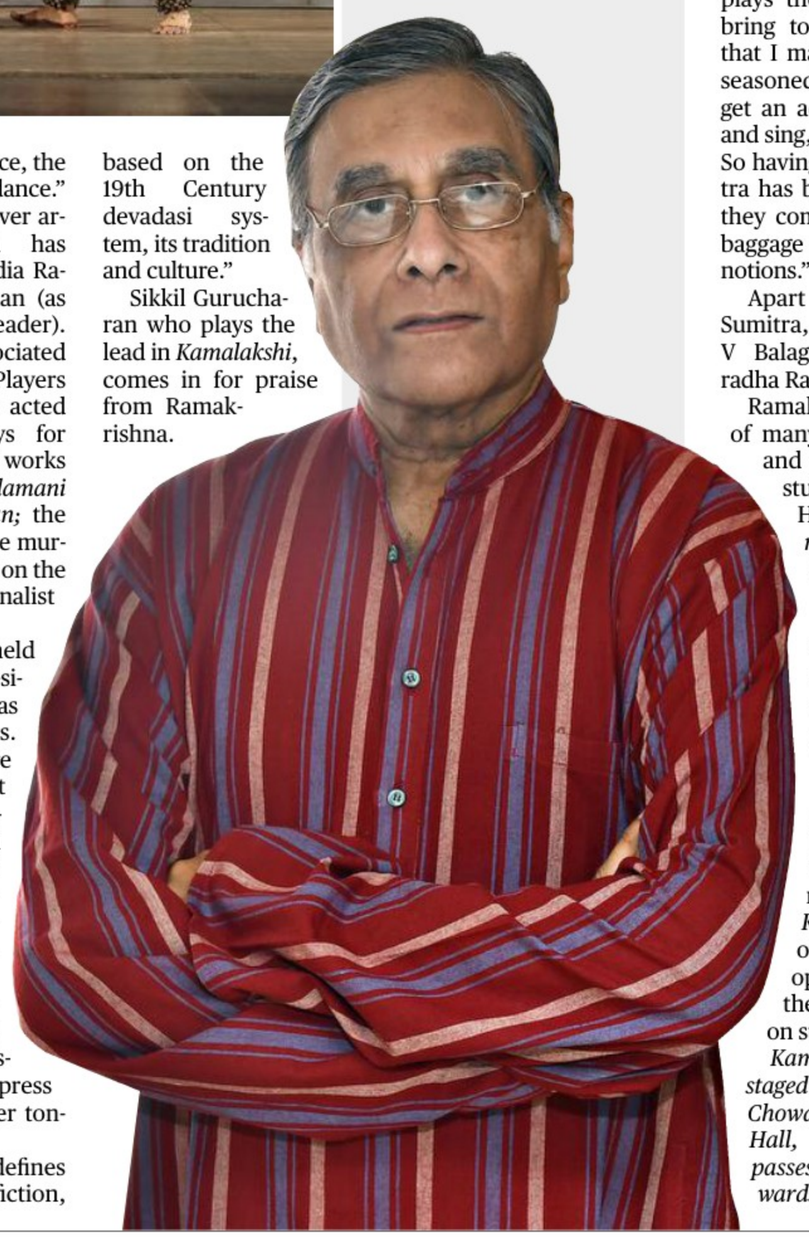
Conversion of Mysore Palace as Public Trust

Bengaluru, Feb 26: A deed had been finalised for converting the Mysore palace of the former Maharaja into a public trust, the Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, told the Legislative Council to-day. Replying to the motion of thanks to the Governor's address, he said the late Mr. Jayachamaraja Wadiyar's wife, Mrs. Tripurasundarammanni, his son Mr. Srikantadutta Narasimharaja Wadiyar and his daughters had signed the deed on January 29, 1975. Mr. Urs said there would be 10 trustees-five of them would be from the late Maharaja's family, four representing the State Government and one representing the Centre. The Mysore Palace would become a tourist attraction.

Tale of a temple dancer

PC Ramakrishna describes his play, *Kamalakshi*, to be staged this in Bengaluru this weekend as fiction based on the 19th Century devadasi system

Master of the stage Veteran theatre personality PC Ramakrishna, scenes from the play. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Shilpa Anandraj

Step back in time to 19th Century India with the English play, *Kamalakshi,* written by Sujatha Vijayaraghavan and presented by The Madras Players, the oldest English theatre group in India (founded in 1955). Designed and directed by veteran theatre personality PC Ramakrishna, the play is a poignant tale of a temple dancer that entwines drama, classical music and Bharatantyam.

Working with live music is not new, Ramakrishna says over a call from Chennai in his baritone. "I had already done a play with music in 2019 called *Trinity,* which was about the three music composers – Tyagaraja, Muthuswamy Dikshitar and Syama Sastri."

Trinity, which travelled to the U.S. after its premier, was in English, Ramakrishna says, and was based on three short stories by Sita Ravi, the granddaughter of writer, journalist, poet, critic and freedom fighter, Kalki Krishnamurthy.

Ramakrishna, who is also a mridangam artiste, trained under Palghat Mani Iyer, which he states made him keen to work with live music in his plays. "I performed as a mridangam artiste till I chose a corporate career and theatre. *Trinity* worked and brought in new audiences to the play, including those who usually went to the kutcheri rather than plays."

Kamalakshi, Ramakrishna says, began a year-and-a-half ago. "I was at a lecture demonstration about Tamil music composers. One of the lectures was about Muthu Thandavar, whose famous work, 'Terivilvaranu' has been danced to. You will find this song on YouTube, sung in Sikkil's (Gurucharan) soulful voice and danced to by Arushi Mudgal."

Fascinated by the presentation, Ramakrishna says he told Sujata Vijayaraghavan, who was sitting next to him at the lecture, to write a play about a dancer. "She wrote *Kamalakshi*. She is a musicologist, scholar and a singer, while her daughter is a classical dancer hence, the play has music and dance."

A popular voiceover artist, Ramakrishna has worked with All India Radio and Doordarshan (as an English news reader). He has been associated with The Madras Players since 1965 and has acted and directed plays for them. Some of his works include *Water*, *Chudamani* and *Lakshmikanthan;* the latter is based on the murder and trial in 1945 on the death of journalist Lakshmikanthan.

Ramakrishna held the position of a president with The Madras Players for 20 years. "Many people are passionate about theatre and the performing arts. With *Kamalakshi*, I got a chance to amalgamate classical music and classical dance with theatre in English language, which is my medium of expression. I do, also express myself in my mother tongue, Tamil."

Ramakrishna defines *Kamalakshi* as fiction, based on the 19th Century devadasi system, its tradition and culture."

Sikkil Gurucharan who plays the lead in *Kamalakshi*, comes in for praise from Ramakrishna.

"We are all artists and Sikkil jumped at the chance when I offered him the role in this play. Bharatantayam dancer, Sumitra Nitin, plays the devadasi. They bring to me a freshness that I may not get from a seasoned actor. I may not get an actor who can act and sing, or act and dance. So having Sikkil and Sumitra has been a boon. And they come to me without baggage or pre-conceived notions."

Apart from Sikkil and Sumitra, the play features V Balagurunathan, Anuradha Ramesh and S Ram.

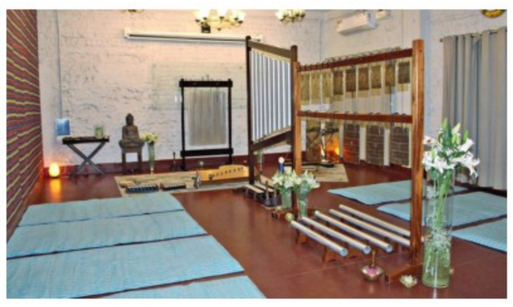
Ramakrishna was part of many plays in school and college when he studied in Kolkata. He describes *Kamalakshi* as a realistic play with classical dance and music. "There are no masks – actual classical singing and Bharatanatyam performances are in the play – a rarity to have both live on stage. There was no point in doing *Kamalakshi* without dance. The play opened the door for these classical forms on stage."

Kamalakshi will be staged on February 28, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, at 7pm. Donor passes from ₹250 onwards on BookMyShow.

CITYBEATS

Jazz it up

FEBRUARY 28
Unwind with an evening of live jazz music and crafted cocktails as part of Tipsy Jazz, organised by The Drawing Room, every Friday. This week will feature the Finger Chips duo – guitarist Dominic D'Cruz and drummer Canute D'Cruz also known as Kenny.
At The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar, 7pm. Call 8657738861.



Mindful moments

MARCH 1
Nidhi Nahata's session 'Healing Power of Sound - A Journey of Relaxation, Restoration, and Rejuvenation' uses melodies in Nature such as rustling leaves, flowing water and more. These harmonious sound frequencies work to influence the mental and emotional state of hearers.
At Justbe by Nidhi Nahata, Sadashiva Nagar. Call 8884163061 for details.

Loom worthy

ONGOING
Raw Mango has unveiled their AGAMA collection. Inspired by pilgrimage, ritual and devotion, it is a collection that celebrates Nature and the Earth. Designed by Sanjay Garg, AGAMA blends tradition and innovation, and features Mashru, Mashru Ikat, and Kantha fabrics.
Available at Raw Mango's Lavelle Road outlet and online.

Bringing back an old world charm

EATING OUT

Praveen Sudevan

When Celeste By Mindescapes first opened in Ooty, it was designed as a nostalgic escape, where vintage European comfort food met the misty romance of the Nilgiris. Now, with its new Bengaluru branch, Celeste attempts to recreate that charm in an urban setting. But restaurateur Dipali Sikand's vision goes beyond just bringing Ooty's essence to the city; she also wants to revive something Bengaluru has lost – the slow, genteel way of life that existed before the IT boom.

"Bengaluru had a quaint sort of vibe. It's still in some clubs, but those aren't accessible to everyone. I wanted to create a space where people can experience fine dining in an affordable, intimate setting, where you're not just grabbing a meal but soaking in the whole experience," says Dipali.

We visited Celeste during Christmas week when the restaurant was dressed for the season – stars, Santa hats, bells, and a red, white, and green palette that added a festive touch. We arrived just as they were opening for lunch, which meant we had the place to ourselves. While it did not have the mist and blue hills of its Ooty counterpart, there were thoughtful reminders of the Nilgiris: bright red geraniums on the walls, and Toda shawls – woven by the women of the dwindling tribal community – gracing the tables. Dipali has also made it a point to source ingredients from the hills. "Even our strawberries, baby carrots, and some of our vegetables come from Ooty," she says.

Once upon a time Celeste brings back dishes such as (from right) Paris-Brest, chicken Maryland and more. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Celeste By Mindescapes
Hits: Paris-Brest, Chicken Maryland
Misses: None
Cost for two: ₹2,000 (approx)

A leisurely meal

Celeste's menu is unapologetically old-school European. It is where you can still find dishes like Chicken à la Kiev and Stroganoff, which, according to Dipali, have quietly disappeared from most Bengaluru menus. "You have plenty of restaurants in the city catering to the Gen Z crowd – the pub music, the bands, the loud energy. But where do you go if you want to sit down, have a quiet conversation, and enjoy a classic European meal with old-world etiquette?"

Our meal began with the bocconcini, beet & berry salad, a mix of roasted beets, fresh berries, and creamy bocconcini, tied together with a honey-balsamic dressing. The prawn cocktail had plump, fresh prawns enveloped in a velvety, tangy cocktail sauce. The avocado toast was simple but well-executed, with perfectly ripe avocado, sea salt, and a drizzle of basil oil atop crisp artisanal bread.

For mains, we had the Maryland, a breaded, fried chicken dish served with banana fritters and a creamy sauce. It had a slightly eccentric combination of flavours but was oddly satisfying. The saffron sauce quinoa with prawn evoked elegance, the golden-hued saffron sauce adding depth to the perfectly cooked prawns and nutty quinoa. Other interesting dishes on the menu include the slow-braised lamb shank, spinach ravioli, and the mushroom risotto with truffle oil.

The true showstoppers

While the meal was enjoyable, the desserts truly stole the show. Celeste has returned the charm of tableside dessert service with a trolley – just like the sweets cart on the Hogwarts Express, but with fewer chocolate frogs and far more French patisserie. "You don't have to go to the menu to choose your dessert, the trolley will come to you," says Dipali.

The Paris-brest was the undisputed star of the afternoon. A choux pastry ring filled with praline cream, it was light, nutty, and just the right amount of sweet – an absolute must-try. The tiramisu was equally delightful, striking the perfect balance of coffee, mascarpone, and cocoa. The ganache tart, with its silky dark chocolate filling and a sprinkle of sea salt, was decadent without being overpowering.

The restaurant's 45-seat capacity ensures it never gets too crowded or noisy. The music, soon to include live jazz, is a far cry from the usual DJ nights and EDM beats. "In the '60s and '70s, places like Mocambo and Peter Cat in Calcutta had live music with dining. That kind of experience is missing in Bengaluru today," Dipali says, "This month, we are planning to launch a range of curated experiences like live music that revive a bygone era of social gathering."

Celeste is a place for those who remember Bengaluru before the IT boom, for those who appreciate the charm of Ooty, and for those who simply want a quiet, well-cooked meal. And if you're going just for dessert? That Paris-brest alone is worth the trip.

SC grants bail to ex-Minister accused of ransacking Naidu's home

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed pre-arrest bail to former Minister and MLA Jogi Ramesh, who is accused of vandalising Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's Undavalli residence with other Yuvajana Shramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) members in 2021.

A Bench headed by Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia also granted anticipatory bail to YSRCP Vijayawada East coordinator Devineni Avinash.

Mr. Avinash is accused of ransacking NTR Bhavan, the central office of the ruling Telugu Desam Party, at Mangalagiri during the YSRCP regime in October 2021.

Appearing for Mr. Avinash, senior Advocate Kapil Sibal submitted that the alleged attack involved over 80 people and happened three years ago. The investigation began only after the government changed. He said the case was politically motivated. Contrary to the FIR registered, the injuries sustained by those involved in the melee were only minor in nature. Mr. Sibal said Mr. Avinash was not identified in the CCTV footage.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, for the State of Andhra Pradesh, said the accused were not cooperating with the probe and objected to the interim protection from arrest.

'Some local leaders in Belagavi backing anti-social elements'

Karnataka Home Minister says government has sought a report on bus conductor assault case

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI /BENGALURU

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike members taking out a protest rally in Belagavi on Tuesday. P.K. BADIGER

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike president T.A. Narayana Gowda has alleged that "anti-Kannada activities" continue in Belagavi because a few local leaders are supporting anti-social elements for vote-bank politics. The "Marathi appeasement politics" of some Ministers and other leaders has cost Belagavi greatly, he claimed.

He was speaking after holding a protest in Belagavi on Tuesday in connection with the attack on a conductor allegedly because he asked a commuter to speak in Kannada. The incident has sparked off a Kannada-Marathi controversy in the border town. "These local leaders are allowing Marathi groups to engage in violence against Kannada speakers in Belagavi for their own selfish interests," he alleged. "They are even forcing officers to file false cases against Kannada activists. Even in the case of the NWKRTC conductor who got beaten, we have information that a Minister forced the police to file a case against the conductor under the POCSO Act. We want to tell these politicians to stop such appeasement, or go and settle in Maharashtra." He did not take the name of Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, while hinting at her.

He warned of an indefinite protest if Belagavi politicians did not change their ways, adding that the KRV activists were ready to "take the law into their own hands to teach a lesson to miscreants". He, however, hastened to add, "But then, we do not want to do that", urging police to act swiftly.

Meanwhile, the State government has transferred Gururaj Kalyanshetty, circle inspector of Marihal police station, under the jurisdiction of which the alleged incident occurred.

Meanwhile, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the government had sought a report on the Belagavi bus conductor assault case. "The range IGP and SP have been asked to submit the report. We have sought the circumstances in which the POCSO case was filed against the conductor." He said the bus services would resume after some time, and the government has allowed peaceful protest by Kannada organisations.

In Bengaluru, Minister for Kannada and Culture, and Backward Classes Shivaraj Tangadagi threatened Maharashtra Ekikaran Samithi (MES) workers that the Goonda Act would be invoked against them if they continue to act against the interests of Karnataka. He also urged political leaders from Belagavi to speak up against such acts.

Parents of minor girl to withdraw POCSO case

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

In a fresh development, the minor girl's family on Tuesday decided to withdraw the POCSO case filed against the assaulted NWKRTC bus conductor, Mahadev Hukkeri, in Belagavi. The girl's parents released a video statement saying they would take back the case filed by them against the conductor. "There was an altercation in the bus over a ticket. But unfortunately, some vested interests turned it into a Kannada-Marathi fight. We do not want to be part of this. We are taking the case back," the mother of the girl said in the video.

They also added that they were not under any political influence or pressure either to file the case or to withdraw it. "We are Marathi-speaking people, but we have never hated Kannada. We do not want our family to be the cause for any fight over language," they said.

Delimitation impact: Stalin calls all-party meet on March 5

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

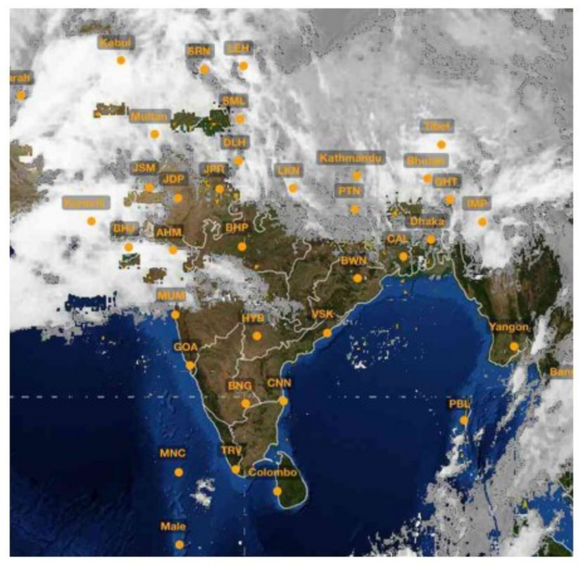
Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has convened an all-party meeting at the Secretariat in Chennai on March 5 to discuss the impact of the proposed delimitation exercise, which may lead to a reduction in the number of Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu. Addressing the media after chairing a Cabinet meeting at the Secretariat on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said, "Tamil Nadu is compelled to wage a major battle for its rights. The threat of delimitation is hanging over the southern States like the sword of Damocles. Tamil Nadu, a leader in HDIs [Human Development Indices], faces serious danger. The Union government plans to conduct the delimitation exercise in 2026. Population control has been a key national objective, and Tamil Nadu has successfully achieved it through effective family planning, prioritising women's education, and advancements in healthcare."

"As of now, Tamil Nadu has 39 Lok Sabha seats. The delimitation exercise is likely to reduce it to 31. It is not just a reduction in numbers. It is about our rights. The voice of Tamil Nadu is being suppressed on the pretext of delimitation. Transcending political differences, everyone should come together and raise our voice," Mr. Stalin said.

To discuss the issues surrounding delimitation, a decision had been made to invite the 40 registered political parties in the State for an all-party meeting, Mr. Stalin added.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated pockets of coastal Karnataka, north Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.8	15.6	Kozhikode	—	35.4	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	34.9	20.4	Kurnool	—	36.3	22.2
Aizawl	—	29.0	11.0	Lucknow	—	28.3	11.2
Allahabad	—	30.2	12.0	Madurai	—	33.5	23.1
Bengaluru	—	32.2	18.3	Mangaluru	—	36.9	22.6
Bhopal	—	29.4	11.6	Mumbai	—	38.7	20.9
Bhubaneswar	—	33.4	21.9	Mysuru	—	33.3	17.4
Chandigarh	—	27.0	13.2	New Delhi	—	29.1	11.7
Chennai	—	34.1	23.0	Patna	—	28.4	16.6
Coimbatore	—	34.6	20.8	Port Blair	18	30.2	24.1
Dehradun	—	26.4	11.8	Puducherry	—	31.4	23.0
Gangtok	1	17.5	7.1	Pune	—	37.6	19.7
Goa	—	37.0	24.0	Raipur	—	34.0	19.5
Guwahati	—	29.1	13.4	Ranchi	—	28.7	13.2
Hubballi	—	35.0	19.0	Shillong	—	18.3	9.9
Hyderabad	—	32.8	20.7	Shimla	1	17.0	9.4
Imphal	—	25.9	15.5	Srinagar	—	10.4	4.9
Jaipur	—	28.7	16.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.6	22.8
Kochi	—	32.6	25.6	Tiruchi	—	33.5	22.6
Kohima	—	20.5	8.4	Vijayawada	—	34.2	23.8
Kolkata	—	30.8	20.3	Visakhapatnam	—	32.5	24.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	109	102	.18	232	158	
Bengaluru	.38	.12	.51	65	94	
Chennai	.17	.10	.—	100	89	
Delhi	.—	104	151	198	223	
Hyderabad	.5	114	.8	66	118	
Kolkata	.11	.55	.32	178	127	
Lucknow	.10	.87	.63	170	144	
Mumbai	.9	.97	.28	181	191	
Pune	.20	136	.55	212	158	
Visakhapatnam	.8	.34	.20	57	80	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kunjemura, Chhattisgarh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 282 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪ್ರಸರಣ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಸಿಐಎನ್: ಯು40109ಕೆಎ1999ಎಸ್‌ಜಿಸಿ025521)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕವಿಪ್ರನಿನಿ/ಬಿ52/56578/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.02.2025

ಅಂತಿಮ ನೋಟೀಸ್

ವಿಷಯ: ಶ್ರೀ.ವಿಕಾಸ.ಎಂ.ವರ್ಣೇಕರ, ಸಹಾಯಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ (ವಿ), ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಘಟಕ, ಹೆಸ್ಕಾಂ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ರವರ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಗೈರುಹಾಜರಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ.ವಿಕಾಸ.ಎಂ.ವರ್ಣೇಕರ, ಸಹಾಯಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್(ವಿ), ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಘಟಕ, ಹೆಸ್ಕಾಂ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ಆದ ನೀವು ದಿನಾಂಕ 21.09.2010 ರಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಕಂಪನಿಯ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಗೈರುಹಾಜರಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಹಿಂದೆಯೂ ಹಲವು ಬಾರಿ ಕಾರವಾರ ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗುವಂತೆ ತಮಗೆ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ನೀಡಿದ್ದರೂ ಸಹ ನೀವು ಇದುವರೆವಿಗೂ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಗೈರುಹಾಜರಿಗೆ ಸಮಂಜಸವಾದ ಕಾರಣದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಈ ನೋಟೀಸು ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ **15 ದಿವಸದೊಳಗೆ** ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಸಹಿದಾರರ ಮುಂದೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಕವಿಪ್ರನಿನಿ ನೌಕರರ (ವ.ಶಿ.ನಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇ) ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳ ನಿಬಂಧನೆ 14(ii) ರ ಅನ್ವಯ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡದೆ ನೀವು ಕಂಪನಿಯ ಸೇವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ, ಯಾವ ಮುನ್ಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಸೇವೆಯಿಂದ ವಜಾಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾ.ಸಂ), ಕವಿಪ್ರನಿನಿ,
ನಿಗಮ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ಭವನ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–09.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Manchanabele Project Division, Ramanagara - 562 159.
Phone : 080 - 2727 1259. E-mail : eempdrmgm@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 14/2024-25 Date : 24-02-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

The CNNL hereby invites Tender for the Road and Other Development Work under 4701 Head Account through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal.

The Last Date for Pre Bid Meeting, Tender Submission, Opening of Technical Bid, Financial Bid Dates, EMD details and more information can be downloaded from the Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal and for further information please visit Office at working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
C.N.N.L., M.P. Division, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/612/Manipal/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division,
BBMP Complex, 2nd Floor, Lashkar Hosur Road,
Adugodi, Bengaluru - 30

No. EE(BTM)/KPPP/11/2024-25 Date : 24-02-2025

CORRIGENDUM

The Calendar of Events for the Tender Notification No.EE/BTM/KPPP/12/2024-25 Dated : 05-02-2025 has been extended as mentioned below due to some technical reasons.

(1) Commencement date to submit the filled tender : **05-03-2025 onwards (2)** Last date to submit the filled tender : **14-03-2025 upto 4:00 PM (3)** Date of Pre-Bid meeting : **10-03-2025, 3:00 PM** at Chief Engineer, South Zone, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru. **(4)** Date of opening of tender : **15-03-2025, 4:30 PM**

The remaining terms and conditions of the tender remain unaltered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division

Govt.of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division Chikodi
Tel. No.: 08338-275101 E-Mail: ee.rdws.ckd@gmail.com

NO: EE/RDW&S/DN-CKD/PB/KW3&4/TENDER/2024-25/19/2284 Date:24/02/2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited on behalf of the governor of govt of Karnataka according to KTTP act 2000 through e-procurement Portal for the below mentioned works.

Work Indent No: 9083,9099

II) Calendar events are as follows :

i) Date of Pre Bid Meeting:04-03-2025 time 11.00Am @ EE R D W & S Division Chikodi, ii) Last date & time for receipt of tenders through e-portal 11-03-2025 upto 17.00 hours. iii) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: on 12-03-2025 at 17.30 hours iv) Date of Opening of Financial Bid on after approval of technical bid.

III) Other conditions & eligibility criteria etc are as published in e-procurement portal. More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list

Sd/-Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division Chikodi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1768/KSMCA/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-2.JE-2:Tender-34:2024-25:3729
Dated:- 25.02.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICAT

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work:- Two cover System:- Head of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements:- (1) IMPROVEMENTS AND ASPHALTING TO SELECTED REACHES FROM H.A ROAD TO HOSADURGA RAILWAY STATION ROAD FROM CH 0.00 KM TO 4.00 KM (WORKING CH 0.00 TO CH 4.35 KM) IN HOSADURGA TALUK (WI.18777) **Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-600.00**

(2) Improvements to Taluku- Devareddy, Devarahalli Andhra Border Road from Km 10.20 to 14.00 (Working Reach from Km 10.10 to 12.70 & Km 13.15 to 14.15) in Challakere Taluk (WI.19798) **Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-300.00**

Tenders dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 11-03-2025 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 12-03-2025 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 13-03-2025 Time: 16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 15-03-2025 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/632/2024-25
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Chitradurga.

Office of the Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Special division, Shimoga
Ph: 08182-222943, E-Mail : spdivision@gmail.com

Short-term Tender Notification (Two cover system)

IFT No. 44/2024-25 Date: 25.02.2025

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply under head of account **5054-03-337-0-17-160-SH-Renewals, Re-surfacing of Malpe-Molakalmuru Road SH 65 in Ch:155.00 to 162.20 Km in selected reaches in Bhadravathi Tq. (Indent No.19144) & under head of account 4059-Building Constructions, CONSTRUCTION OF CIRCUIT HOUSE AT BHADRAVATI TALUK, (Indent No-18374) for Maximum Amount put to tender is. Rs. 316.55 Lakhs, Minimum Amount put to tender is. Rs. 285.85 Lakhs & Maximum EMD amount is Rs. 4.75 lakhs & Minimum EMD amount is Rs.4.29 Lakhs. Time allowed for completion of work is 11 Months including Monsoon.** The tenderers submit tenders through KPPP- portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz.,http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. **Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP-Portal from 25-02-2025 to 13-03-2025 Last date for Receipt of Tender is on 13- 03-2025 at 17.00 PM. The Technical bid will be opened on 14-03-2025 at 05.30 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after 15-03-2025 Onwards.** If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through KPPP-Portal only. For more information obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

DIPR/SMG/No.190-02 zenkar/2024-25
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
PWD Special Division, Shimoga.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Zilla Panchayat Building, 1st Floor, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/20/2024-25
Dated: 25-02-2025

KPPP SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the works approved Under Various Head of Grants for the year 2024-25. Under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 06-03-2025 upto 4.00 PM.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5278/ Adverto/2024-25

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Zilla Panchayath Ramanagara, Office of the Joint Director,
2nd Floor, Panchayath Bhavana, B.M. Raod, Ramanagara
Dist - 562159, Ph : 080-2727 3003 E-mail : dswormgm12@gmail.com
Website : www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

NO. : D.D./S.W.D./RA./ACCOUNTS/CR-01/2024-25
Date : 25-02-2025

E-PROCUREMENT ADVERTISEMENT

For the Year 2024-25 **Department of Social Welfare Running Post Metric and Pre Metric Hostels in Ramanagara District. for this Hostels inviting tender for supplying Electrical and Electronic Items 1) Computers, 2) Printer, 3) Grinder, 4) Water Purifier, 5) Selling Fan, 6) Laptop item** through E-procurement Portal registered tenderers may download the application form and other details from government **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and relevant Documents and EMD Amount may upload with in stipulated **Date : 24-02-2025 and also Tenderers also obtained details from this Office indent no is SWD/2024-25/IND0313.**

1) Tender Notification and Date : D.D./S.W.D./RA/CR-1/2024-25 Date : 24-02-2025, 2) Tender Announcement Date : 24-02-2025, 3) Estimated Amount for Tender : Rs. 52.64 Lakhs, 4) Tender Form Amount : As per E-Portal, 5) Date of Commencement of Tender Form uploading through e-portal : 24-02-2025, 6) Sample Submit Date : 07-03-2025 at 5.30 p.m., 7) Last Date and Time of Tender Submitting through E-portal : 10-03-2025 at 5.30 p.m., 8) Date and Time of Opening of Technical Envelopes of e-portal : 11-03-2025 at 11.00 a.m., 9) Date and Time of Opening of Financial Envelopes of E-Protal Date : 12-03-2025 at 1.00 p.m., 10) E.M.D. Amount : Rs. 0.79 Lakhs, 11) Total Security Amount : Rs. 2.63 Lakhs, 12) For more information contact the Office Address, Contact Phone Number : Office of the Joint Director, Social Welfare Department, 2nd Floor, Zillapanchayath Bhavana, B.M. Road, Ramanagara Dist - 562 159, Ph : (080) – 2727 3003, Mob. : 94808 43043, E-mail : dswormgm12@gmail.com Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Joint Director,
Social Welfare Office,
Ramanagara Dist.

DIPR/Ramanagar/607/Manipal/2024-25

KELADI SHIVAPPA NAYAKA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES.
Office of Estate Officer, Main Premises,
Iruvakki 577412, Shivamogga District
Ph.No :**9480838979**, E-mail: **eo@uahs.edu.in**

No.: ಕೆಶಿನಾಕೃತೋವಿವಿ(ಇ)/ಆ.ಅ/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–23/2024–25 Date: 21.02.2025

Tender Notification
(Through e-procurement portal only)

Tenders have been invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department to undertake Civil and Electrical works at Shivamogga and Moodigere Colleges of Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga. Tender notification, schedules and tender details are available in website : **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Tender schedules are as follows: **1**) Last date and time for submission of tender: **03.03.2025 at 4.00 P M**, **2)** Date and time of opening of Technical bid : **04.03.2025 at 4.30 P M, 3)** Date and time of opening of Financial bid : **05.03.2025 at 10.00 A M.**

Details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours. Contact on all working days and the Estate Officer, Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Sagar Taluq, Shivamogga – 577 412. **Ph.No. 9480838979.**

DIPR/SMG/No- 168-02/ zenkar/2024-25
Sd/-
Estate Officer, Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural & Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Shivamogga

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Blunt weapon

India should end Net curbs, especially when imposed without good reason

The number of Internet shutdowns in India was slightly lower in 2024 than in 2023, according to the Software Freedom Law Center (SLFC), India's annual report. A separate report by the web rights advocacy, Access Now, shows that India continues to lead globally in the number of government-ordered Internet shutdowns. The Union government has maintained that mobile Internet shutdown is an indispensable instrument in the toolkit to control law and order situations. Most of the Internet use in India is mobile. A closer examination of the shutdowns imposed even over the last year reveals some disturbing data: 41 of the 84 shutdowns in India in 2024 were imposed during protests, compared to the 23 that were imposed for communal clashes. Five were even issued for cheating during examinations. In situations on the brink of violence where rapidly spreading disinformation may swerve out of control of the authorities, there may be a case for considering restrictions on communications. But no shutdown is without a cost – the delayed information regarding violence can also impede fast response. The Supreme Court of India recognised this when it ruled, in *Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India*, that each shutdown must meet the tests of necessity and proportionality. Internet shutdown impedes people's livelihoods, access to medical care and education. It is a blunt weapon and the least the government could do is to measure its impact and use it sparingly. The government has been urged on preparing such an assessment for years, but no headway has been made here.

Even for those in favour of retaining shutdowns as a tool in the repertory of emergency policing, the process being followed is cause for alarm. Many a time, as Access Now and SFLC report, there is no valid order uploaded on government websites detailing the duration and the causes in detail, as required by the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024 and its preceding rules of 2017. Ideally, every shutdown should be followed by a sombre examination of whether it was necessary and what its deployment cost was. The ideal number of Internet shutdowns in any country is zero. It is especially troubling that 296 of them were imposed on millions around the world last year. India's case shows that there is an urgent need for circumspection and restraint. The Internet shutdowns index is, after all, one of the indices in which India should not aspire to lead.

Wild and safe

Habitat fragmentation has led to rise in human-wildlife conflict

Recent human fatalities due to wild animal attacks, deep inside forests, in forest-fringed human habitations, and even within villages, have highlighted growing human-wildlife conflict in Kerala, where nearly 29% of the land is forested. With a dry spell and an unusually hot summer expected, urgent measures are needed to prevent further escalation of this conflict, which now has political, social, and environmental dimensions. The Kerala government is facing criticism for its perceived inability to manage wildlife. Groups such as the Kerala Independent Farmers' Association (KIFA) and sections of the church advocate for culling wildlife, citing an alleged population boom. However, Forest Department data suggest otherwise. The wild elephant population, linked to 18% of human fatalities, has declined by 7%. Snakebites, responsible for 75% of wildlife-related deaths, have fallen from 113 in 2012 to 34 in 2023. Overall, human deaths from wildlife encounters have decreased from 146 in 2018 to 57 last year. Yet, this is no cause for complacency. A concerning trend is that many victims are from tribal communities, traditionally adept at coexisting with wildlife. The government should investigate this as part of its newly announced mission to document and assess the traditional knowledge of Kerala's 36 tribal communities in tackling wildlife encounters.

There are also several anthropogenic factors. Habitat fragmentation, particularly in elephant corridors such as Aralam Farm (Kannur) and Chinnakkanal (Idukki), has forced animals into human settlements. Unregulated tourism, cattle grazing near forests, encroachments, and food waste dumping on forest fringes further exacerbate the issue. Invasive plants (*Senna spectabilis*) and monoculture industrial plantations have also disrupted wildlife feeding patterns. In response, the Kerala government, in 2022, empowered local bodies to eliminate feral wild boars damaging farmland. Last year, the Cabinet classified human-wildlife conflict as a State-specific disaster, allowing the Disaster Management Authority to intervene. The government's decision to emphasise participatory forest and wildlife management is a step in the right direction, given the extreme views propagated by some sections. The Forest Department has restored 5,031 hectares of natural forest and built ponds and check dams. However, restoring areas dominated by industrial plantations such as eucalyptus and acacia is a challenge. While solar fencing has shown some success, the ₹52-crore elephant-proof wall at Aralam, one of 12 conflict landscapes, remains incomplete. The State's 10 missions to mitigate human-wildlife conflict must be prioritised. Given the region-specific nature of the problem, a multi-agency approach involving the Disaster Management, Revenue, Local Self-Government, Tribal Welfare, Agriculture, Health and Forest Departments is crucial to balancing human safety and sustainable wildlife management.

The right's rise, Europe's state of denial

T.S. Tirumurti

was Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York (2020-22)

Irony died a thousand deaths in the Munich Security Conference in Germany, that was held recently, and the United Nations General Assembly vote on Ukraine.

A few days ago, in Saudi Arabia, the United States and Russia, led by their respective Foreign Ministers, had held bilateral discussions on the Ukraine war. The Ukrainians and Europeans were not invited since it was felt that they need not be included at this point. In June 2024, at the behest of Ukraine, the European Union (EU) and the U.S., Switzerland organised a 'Summit on Peace in Ukraine' at the Bürgenstock. Russia was not invited since they felt that Russia was not needed at that point.

In Munich, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance accused Europe of strangling its right-wing parties, "shutting down" elections, "stifling" free speech and religious freedoms and encouraging "out of control" migration from non-EU countries, thereby endangering democratic polity, freedoms and "fundamental values". But before November 2024, the Americans and the Europeans had tried to prevent their right-wing and far-right parties from gaining legitimacy through the ballot since they were convinced that the rise of right in their countries endangered democracy and freedoms – and, in effect, their liberal western values. Romania's constitutional court even annulled the presidential election results where far-right independent candidate, Calin Georgescu, who lobbied to cut off assistance to Ukraine, won the first round.

What the U.S. forgets

In February 2025, the U.S. is accusing Ukraine, Germany and the Europeans of not doing enough to find a solution to the conflict, pursuing an unwinnable war with Russia. But the U.S. forgets that it has already spent over $110 billion in the Ukraine war, with $65 billion for ammunition only – more than what top western countries have collectively given Ukraine. The U.S. also forgets that in March 2022, it was the leader of a European country who, at the behest of the U.S., sabotaged negotiations (which had already commenced in Türkiye) between the Russians and the Ukrainians.

And, in September 2022, close allies of Germany sabotaged the Nord Stream pipelines, rendering them inoperable and preventing Russia from supplying gas to Germany, which was its lifeline. But a reluctant, but much-chastised, Germany supplied Leopard tanks and other ammunition to Ukraine.

In addition, the U.S. exhorts Europe to take responsibility for its own security, substantially enhances its defence spending and not sponge on the disproportionate American role in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The U.S. contributes 16% of NATO's annual budget and to most of its troops. But the U.S. forgets that since the collapse of the Cold War, it was America that was reluctant to let the Europeans organise their own security and defence.

EU leaders are complicit in the gradual eclipse of their own liberal values, allowing for the gradual rise of the right

Today, the U.S. accuses the EU of not doing enough either on illegal migration from non-EU countries or on combating militant radical Islam to stop terror attacks that disrupt the western way of life.

A few years ago, in the UN, the U.S. and Europe, barring France, proclaimed that the danger of terrorism came from "racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism" (REMVE) in the U.S. as well as the rise of right-wing violent extremism in Europe, and not from radical Islam or disastrous migration policies of the West. At the UN, their "liberal" Ambassadors kept silent when the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) tried to undermine the collective fight against terror and the UN Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC) dismissed the terrorist attacks in France in 2020 as reaction to Islamophobia.

The problem with Europe

Europe, on its part, refuses to accept that its domestic policies, which, *inter alia*, encourage violent dissidents, radicals, terrorists, and refugees to seek citizenship, have transformed its demography, perhaps irrevocably. Its liberal open societies were taken advantage of by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorists, Khalistani separatists and terrorists, the infamous Hamburg Cell of Al Qaeda (the pilots of the 9/11 terrorist attacks were from here) or by Islamic radicals killing Europeans in their own cities – Paris, Nice, Oslo, Vienna, Madrid, Brussels or elsewhere. Therefore, it was no surprise that right-wing parties began to sweep elections in Europe as a reaction to their leaders' misplaced priorities. The recent election results in Germany which kept the far-right at bay, but only just, may be the last chance to find that elusive balance within the EU.

As Mr. Vance said in Munich, "If you're running in fear of your own voters, there is nothing America can do for you." Of course, the U.S. forgets that Trump 1.0 refused to accept the 2020 election loss and that the first act of Trump 2.0 was to pardon the perpetrators of the storming of the U.S. Capitol in 2021. But Europe's claim that the U.S. is no less undemocratic or no less culpable in these issues, or the pointing to Germany's Nazi past and the danger of its resurgence or to Russian aggression are not excuses for illiberal action against their far-right.

Europe seems to be in a state of denial. While the pursuit of ideology, liberal democracy and western values are laudable objectives, the EU leaders are complicit in the gradual eclipse of their own liberal values by allowing migrants, whose ethos are at direct variance with theirs. Their peoples' counter-reaction is to vote for the far-right fearing for their own identity, way of life and even religion. It is a classic case of liberal policies being taken advantage of by illiberal values.

In Munich, India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, called out the West for claiming to promote democratic values at home but supporting non-democratic forces outside, especially in the Global South. Recent instances of the West effecting regime changes in the Global South include the forcible takeover of power by radical Taliban in Afghanistan in August 2021 and the overthrow of the Syrian President in December 2024 by Ahmed al-Shaara, a former leader of al-Qaeda in the region – all in the name of ushering in democracy.

However, on the Ukraine war, while Europe and the U.S. hitched themselves to the Zelenskyy bandwagon to emasculate Russia, in a dramatic turn of events, the chasm between the new U.S. initiatives and entrenched European positions burst into the open in the UN General Assembly when the U.S. voted with Russia against the European/Ukrainian draft resolution but could not stop it from being adopted. More drama could follow in the UN Security Council, but it is only a pyrrhic win for Europe – without America, the Ukraine war is as good as over.

The trans-Atlantic partnership is relevant

Despite the jolts at Munich and the UN General Assembly, proclaiming that the trans-Atlantic partnership between the U.S. and Europe is over is premature. The call from the U.S. administration for retreat from Europe seems tactical, to renegotiate a better deal, and not strategic. With a new centrist leadership in Germany, maybe it is time for Europe to undertake course correction, invest more in its own security, combat the rise of radical values in its societies, pursue a more independent foreign policy and rework its relations with the U.S. Ironically, the trans-Atlantic partnership is even more relevant now in the face of "no-limits" partnership between Russia and China. The U.S.'s ability to walk away from Europe is overstated, just as the ability of Europe to weather the storm is understated.

When a reporter asked Mahatma Gandhi what he thought of western civilisation, he is reported to have replied: "I think it would be a good idea."

Human smuggling must engage Parliament's attention

Anil Malhotra

is an international lawyer, author, an International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) fellow and an alumni of SOAS University of London

The planeloads of Indians being deported to India from the United States are lucky to be back alive. Shackled, handcuffed, humiliated and in dire straits, they have flown back heartbroken and in shame. But there is also the case of illegal immigrants from north India clearing ammunition fields in Iraq, who were abandoned. They were brought back home after emergency documents were issued.

However, the key issue here is about illegal immigration. Every year, countless young Indians attempt what is called 'irregular migration'. Backing them are the 'unethical merchants of death' who sponsor this activity and who have proliferated in rural Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala and Gujarat. Manpower export – legally called human smuggling or *kabootarbazi* – is one of the most profitable forms of trade. It requires no technical skill, no educational or professional qualifications, no financial investment, and has no fear or respect for any law, checks, punishment or even criminal action.

Horror and misery

Even though this menace is not new to India, we must learn from what has happened. The tradesmen of these flourishing rackets of human smuggling thrive on gullible youth who fantasise about making it big with dollar-fuelled dreams. In reality they are only waiting to be duped. This is organised crime that perpetuates horror and misery, and flourishes with impunity. Once in the net of these human smugglers, these migrants are vulnerable to exploitation and face grave risks to their life. As the world has seen, they end up being suffocated in containers, perish in scorching deserts, drown at sea or be herded into slave camps to work as forced labour. These human smugglers conduct their activities brazenly, without any regard for a precious human life.

Survivors often narrate harrowing tales of their ordeal – of how they were forced to sit in piles of human waste, deprived of food and water, while others around them have died and their bodies dumped at sea or on road sides. Human smuggling generates high net worth profits for criminals, who in turn fuel corruption and organised crime. This is a deadly business that needs to be combated with grave urgency.

The deportations from the U.S. must push Parliament to enact a central law that strikes at the roots of human smuggling

Naive youth fall prey to agents and land up somewhere working as slave labour in ammunition dumps or fields in Iraq, or as illegal immigrants elsewhere, who suffer immensely with no hope of returning home. The smuggling of migrants is a very profitable business with a low risk of detection. For criminals, it is becoming increasingly attractive to deal in human merchandise. The business of death is becoming more organised, involving professional international mafias across global borders.

India needs to be alert and check this global menace. Sadly, the Emigration Act, 1983 – officially 'an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to emigration of citizens of India' – neither defines human smuggling nor looks at the serious problems connected with this deathly trade. Thus, Parliament must waste no time in legislating an Indian human smuggling law. There are pieces of State legislation that are piecemeal and with a limited ambit of application – only to State territorial borders. Having a new central law is a composite solution and Parliament must set the ball rolling. There has been some discussion about the Emigration (Overseas Mobility Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, but its fate remains uncertain. Till then, any piece of State legislation would be welcome. In this, the Government of Punjab deserves praise for its efforts. But, sadly, its implementation is poor.

Punjab's Act

The Punjab Travel Professionals Regulation Act, 2012, is described as a law to provide for the regulation of the profession of travel agents with a view to check and curb illegal, fraudulent activities, and malpractices such as organised human smuggling in the State of Punjab. Enacted to provide a licensing regime for travel agents, and with penal provisions, it has some regulatory functions to check human smuggling.

In this enactment, "travel agent" means a person who is doing a profession which involves arranging, managing or conducting affairs related to the sending of persons abroad or which arise out of the affairs of persons sent to a foreign country, and shall include a range of activities covering diverse practices. Likewise, "human smuggling" shall mean and include illegally exporting, sending or transporting persons out of India by receiving money from them or their parents, relatives or any other persons interested in their welfare, by inducing, alluring or deceiving or cheating them.

Parliament must act

A comparison of both Acts, i.e., the Emigration Act, 1983 and the Punjab Travel Professionals Regulation Act, 2012, shows that they enshrine regulatory mechanisms for recruiting agents and travel agents separately. Viewed objectively, both have complimentary purposes in their own spheres. They are neither inconsistent or repugnant to each other. In fact, the two laws compliment each other as they provide similar objectives, aims and functions for recruiting and travel agents, respectively. Punjab has enacted a law which no other State in India has done.

In fact, human smuggling is a silent issue in the Emigration Act. The authority of law vested in Punjab must be exercised to enforce this law. Finally, Parliament must seriously contemplate enacting a national law to control Indian borders to regulate the human smuggling industry and deal with irregularities with an iron hand. Parliamentarians must rise to save precious human Indian lives. There needs to be a central law which has teeth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The political environment

The resurgence of right-wing populism is threatening the very basis of western liberalism. What explains citizens' support for parties such as the AfD in Germany or leaders such as Donald Trump and Giorgia Meloni? Is it simply a reaction against liberal values? Or are there more profound socio-economic causes at work? It is essential to address these movements instead of rejecting them to comprehend the changing political environment.

Anshu Bharti,
Begusarai, Bihar

It would not be wrong to conjecture that growing support for far-right forces, in Germany, Italy, France and other European countries have put the leaders of the United States and India in the same basket, portraying them as nationalists under attack from liberals. The possibility of national self interest seems to be gaining ground given the rapidity with which Mr. Trump has moved to pursue national interests above anything else.
India will have to tread with caution and have to be prepared for a more inward-looking Europe at a time when the U.S. is increasingly turning protectionist and shedding its pivotal role in global politics to give way to a more nuanced approach. A peculiar shift in favour of conservative agendas such as anti-immigration policies and dealing with refugees have become contentious issues.

Vijay Singh Adhikari,
Nainital, Uttarakhand

The fight against obesity

That Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a campaign against the raging demon of obesity is praiseworthy ("PM names celebrities to add heft to battle against rising obesity", February 25). Obesity is more than just an enemy of the body. It is a risk factor in catastrophic ailments such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. The step taken by the Prime Minister is a call to awaken the people of India and build a strong, health-empowered India. We must rise and become the warriors of this revolution.

R.K. Jain,
Barwani, Madhya Pradesh

India's victory

India's six-wicket victory over Pakistan in the ICC Champions Trophy was a moment of national pride. While cricket rivalry can be intense, especially in this instance, there is a more important message. It is crucial to see sport as a bridge to peace. Let us celebrate this victory and the potential it offers.

Gunvant Vyankat Ade,
Pune, Maharashtra

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

AI has an environmental problem

Urmi Tat
U.S.-India AI Fellow, Observer Research Foundation

AI has become an indispensable part of our lives, transforming how we work, live, and do business. Broadly defined, AI encompasses technologies that simulate human thinking and decision-making. While basic forms of AI have existed since the 1950s, the field has advanced rapidly in recent years, driven by improvements in computing power and the exponential surge in data availability. With the global AI market valued at $200 billion and projected to contribute up to $15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, AI adoption and its recognition as a driver of economic value have reached unprecedented levels. In the U.S., the announcement of the Stargate Project, involving more than $500 billion in AI infrastructure investments over four years, is testament to this. In India, Reliance Industries is planning to build the world's largest data centre in Jamnagar, in partnership with Nvidia. India has also announced plans to build its own LLM (large language model) to compete with DeepSeek and ChatGPT. However, as governments race to tap AI's economic potential, it is crucial to acknowledge that its rapid rise brings not only opportunities but also risks, particularly environmental costs.

Impact across stages

The environmental impact of AI arises across several stages of its value chain, including energy consumption from infrastructure, computing hardware production, cloud data centre operations, AI model training, inferencing, validation, and related processes. In terms of hardware, data centres, the backbone of AI operations, contribute 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). This figure is expected to rise significantly as electricity demand from data centres is projected to double by 2026. Generative AI models like ChatGPT, which rely on sophisticated machine learning (ML) techniques, require 10-100 times more computing power than earlier versions, further driving demand for graphic processing units and worsening the environmental footprint. Moreover, the rapid expansion of data centres is also fuelling a growing e-waste crisis.

AI's software life cycle emissions arise from processes like data collection, model development, training, validation, maintenance and retirement, and are equally concerning. Training advanced AI models, such as GPT-3, can emit up to 552 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent – comparable to the annual emissions of dozens of cars. To mitigate these environmental risks, governments and the private sector must proactively work towards embedding sustainability into AI ecosystem design.

Global conversations on this issue have been gaining momentum. At COP29, the International Telecommunication Union emphasised the urgent need for greener AI practices. Such commitments demand that businesses also align their processes with sustainability targets. Over 190 countries have adopted non-binding ethical AI recommendations addressing the environment, and regions such as the European Union and the U.S. have introduced laws to curb AI's environmental impact. However, such policies are scarce. While governments across the globe are crafting national AI strategies, they often overlook sustainability, particularly the private sector's role in reducing emissions.

The way forward

To balance innovation and environmental responsibility, action is needed across the AI value chain. Investing in clean energy is a key step in achieving net-zero emissions. Companies can achieve this by transitioning to renewable energy sources and purchasing carbon credits. Locating data centres in areas with abundant supply of renewable resources can also reduce strain on existing resources and help lower the carbon footprint. AI can also help optimise energy grids, particularly by integrating renewable energy sources. For instance, Google's DeepMind has leveraged ML to improve wind energy forecasting, enabling more accurate wind pattern predictions and facilitating better integration of wind power into the grid.

Using energy-efficient hardware and ensuring regular maintenance can also significantly minimise emissions. Equally important is the development of efficient AI models. Smaller, domain-specific models that are tailored to their applications can deliver the same outputs with less processing power, reducing demand on infrastructure and resources. A study by Google and the University of California, Berkeley, has found that the carbon footprint of LLMs can be minimised by a factor of 100 to 1,000 through optimised algorithms, specialised hardware, and energy-efficient cloud data centres. Further, instead of collecting new data or training models from scratch, businesses can adapt pre-trained models to new tasks.

Lastly but most importantly, transparency is essential in driving sustainability efforts. Measuring and disclosing the environmental impact of AI systems will help organisations understand their life cycle emissions and address the negative externalities of their operations. Establishing standardised frameworks for tracking and comparing emissions across the industry will ensure consistency and accountability.

Sustainability needs to be incorporated into the very design of the AI ecosystem, in order to ensure its long-term growth and viability. By balancing environmental responsibility with innovation, we can harness AI's transformative potential without compromising the Earth's future.

To balance innovation and environmental responsibility, action is needed across the AI value chain

Consolidating the backward classes

All political parties have intensified their efforts to woo the community

STATE OF PLAY

M. Rajeev
rajeev.madabhushi@thehindu.co.in

After conducting a comprehensive survey to assess the socio, economic, educational, employment, political, and caste status of the people of Telangana, the Congress government is faced with the challenging task of consolidating its base among backward classes in the local body elections.

The survey spanning close to two months shows that the population of backward classes is 56.33%. The survey, engaging over 1.03 lakh personnel covering 94,261 enumeration blocks with 150 houses each, says that Scheduled Castes (SCs) comprise 17.43% and Scheduled Tribes (STs) 10.45% of the State's 3.7 crore population. Other castes formed the remaining 15.79%.

When the survey report was tabled in the Assembly, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) raised doubts over the numbers. BJP MLA Payal Shankar wondered whether it was constitutionally valid to categorise backward classes along religious lines (46.25% were categorised as backward classes in the Hindu community and 10.08% as backward classes in the Muslim community). Comparing the survey report with the Samagra Kutumba Survey, a household study conducted by the previous BRS government (then called the Telangana Rashtra Samithi government) on a single day in 2014, BRS members criticised the government for the rise in the number of other castes and the decline in the backward classes population.

The Congress held that the previous government survey had no sanctity as it was not approved by the council of ministers nor tabled in the Assembly. Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the survey is not just a data collection exercise, but a revolution in social justice, ensuring that the most vulnerable sections receive the benefits they deserve.

Amid the increasing demand for implementation of enhanced reservations for backward classes following the results of the survey, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy asserted that the Congress is committed to providing 42% reservation to backward classes in the upcoming local body polls and dared the Opposition parties to allocate the same number of seats.

This again raises questions of whether implementation of higher reservations is possible in local body polls. The dedicated commission headed by retired bureaucrat, Busani Venkateswarlu, is said to have come up with a methodology of providing higher reservations to backward classes, at least in local body elections, without exceeding the 50% limit set by the Supreme Court.

In its report submitted to the government, the commission said that of the 12,751 gram panchayats going to the polls, 2,458 gram panchayats, including 1,281 located in the agency areas and 1,177 gram panchayats with a 100% ST population, have been set aside for the STs in line with the constitutional mandate leaving another 10,293 gram panchayats. Of these, the STs were given 688 and SCs were given 2,113 in accordance with their population. The government could fulfil its promise of 42% quota to Backward Classes in these panchayats allotting around 4,200 exclusively to these communities.

The Commission suggested that reservations should be finalised for wards, gram panchayats, mandal parishad territorial constituencies, mandal praja parishad presidents, zilla parishad territorial constituencies, and zilla parishad chairpersons. Reservations could be finalised based on the population of the backward classes in the respective gram panchayats so that there will be no scope for legal complications.

The survey is being seen by some as a major initiative by the government to woo the backward classes. The Telugu Desam Party had the reputation of consolidating a major chunk of the the community's vote in erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh. This vote scattered after the formation of Telangana. Given the crucial role the large number of voters of the backward classes play in elections, all political parties have intensified their efforts to attract the community. While the Congress has made public its intentions to formulate evidence-based policies, the BJP has been projecting leaders such as Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar and MP Eatala Rajender, both from backward classes. The BRS, however, has not announced any initiatives despite having data on the backward classes after the Samagra Kutumba Survey was conducted and will have to intensify its efforts to compete for the votes of this community.

India sole nation to curb Internet over communal unrest in 2023-24

Most of these shutdowns occurred in Manipur followed by Bihar and Haryana

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Samreen Wani

Globally, there were 88 Internet shutdowns due to communal violence in 2023 and 2024 and all of them were in India. In fact, nearly 95% of all Internet shutdowns ordered by the state due to communal violence since 2018 have occurred in India, says a report by Access Now, a digital advocacy group.

Chart 1 shows the number of Internet shutdowns in India due to communal violence and India's share in global shutdowns for the same reason. In 2023 and 2024, most of these shutdowns occurred in Manipur (54 instances), followed by Bihar (9), and Haryana (7) **(Chart 2).**

In 2024, there were 41 Internet shutdowns due to protests – the highest in the last seven years. India accounted for about 57% of global Internet shutdowns due to protests in 2024 – the highest for any country **(Chart 3).**

Manipur also featured first among the States where a shutdown was imposed in 2024 due to protests, followed by Haryana and Punjab. Jammu and Kashmir had 3 instances of Internet shutdowns due to protests in 2024 and Rajasthan and Maharashtra experienced 2 each **(Chart 4)**.

Chart 5 shows the share of Internet shutdowns in India by reason since 2016. In 2024, over 50% of shutdowns were due to protests. In 2023, over 50% of shutdowns were due to communal violence. In 2021 and 2022, political instability was the main reason.

An Internet shutdown can be either a complete restriction, cutting off all access, or a partial curb, limiting only specific services such as social media platforms. These shutdowns may be imposed at varying levels, affecting an entire state or targeting specific districts within a region.

Access denied

The data for the charts were sourced from Access Now. It also includes The Hindu's calculations

Chart 1: The number of Internet shutdowns in India **due to communal violence** and India's share in global shutdowns for the same reason

Chart 3: The number of Internet shutdowns in India **due to protests** and India's share in global shutdowns for the same reason

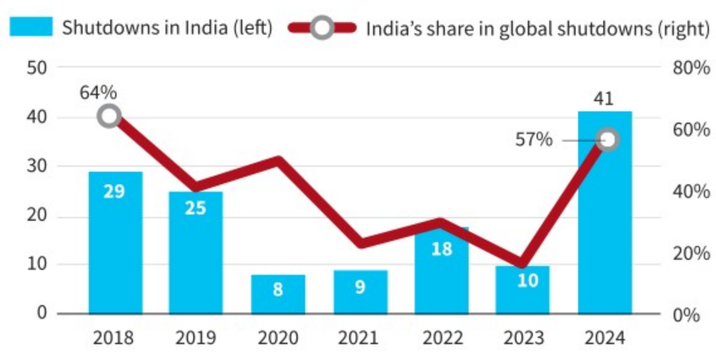

Chart 2: The chart shows the State-wise breakdown of Internet shutdowns **due to communal violence** in 2023 and 2024

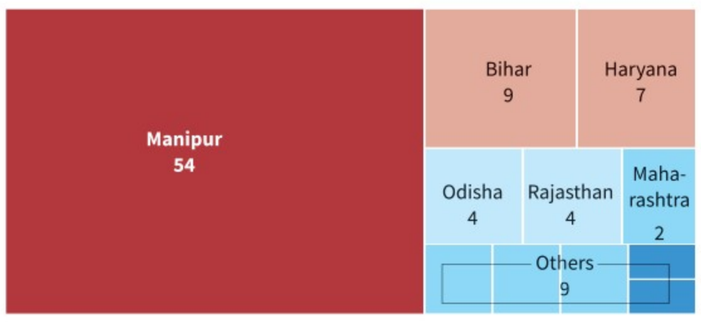

Chart 4: The chart shows the State-wise breakdown of Internet shutdowns **due to protests** in 2024

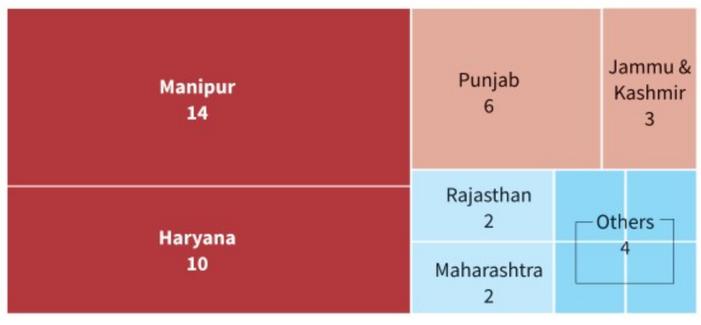

Chart 5: The chart shows the reason-wise share of Internet shutdowns in India (in %) between 2016 and 2024

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Protests	50.0	37.7	21.4	20.2	7.8	8.7	19.8	8.9	50.6
Communal violence	0.0	0.0	28.2	10.9	3.9	6.8	14.8	55.4	27.2
Unknown	23.3	24.6	3.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.2	6.3	7.4
Exam cheating	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	1.9	3.9	3.7	0.9	6.2
Elections	0.0	2.9	3.8	3.4	1.9	0.0	1.2	0.9	3.7
Information control	3.3	1.4	0.8	0.8	0.0	2.9	1.2	12.5	2.5
Religious holiday/anniversary	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	4.9	1.9	3.7	8.0	2.5
Conflict	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.3	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	5.8	4.6	16.8	68.0	0.0	1.2	7.1	0.0
Political instability	23.3	27.5	34.4	4.2	10.7	74.8	53.1	0.0	0.0
Visits by government officials	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 26, 1975

Minister details recoveries from palace

New Delhi, Feb. 25: Finance Minister C. Subramaniam's statement in the Rajya Sabha to-day on IT searches in Jaipur and in Delhi showed that the Income Tax authorities had discovered so far from Moti Doongri Palace, the residence of Mrs. Gayatridevi in Jaipur, gold mohars, sovereigns, half-sovereigns and primary gold with and without markings of approximate total value of Rs. 4.5. crores at current market rates. The total weight of gold was 848 kilograms. The search was still continuing.

At "Rajmahal Palace", the residence of Lt.-Col Bhowani Singh, the authorities had found large quantities of diamond-studded jewellery and jewellery made of emeralds and rubies. The jewellery was still to be valued but they "appeared to be very valuable".

In one of the strong rooms in the palace dynastic regalia of the Jaipur family had been stored. "It would appear that all the dynastic regalia are not at one place and the search party has requested Lt.-Col Bhowani Singh and Mr. Jai Singh to account for the same". Notices under the Income Tax Act had been served on the parties, the statement said.

From the residence of Jai Singh a substantial amount of jewellery and cash of approximately Rs. one lakh were found and sealed. The jewellery was yet to be valued.

Giving the outcome of the searches at City Palace, Jaipur, the statement said at the rear of Palace Museum there were certain rooms known as "Kapat Dwar", which was reputed to contain the treasure of the former ruling family.

The "Kapat Dwar" consisted of a large number of rooms containing various costly items, which were yet to be valued. But "gold utensils, weighing approximately one quintal and silver utensils and silver photo frames weighing nearly 50 quintals have been inventorised."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 26, 1925

Rock-burst in Kolar gold fields

Oorgaum, Feb. 25: A severe rock burst occurred this afternoon in Nundydrug Mines and was located in 4,100 feet level between Kennedy and Oriental shaft. About 20 were injured including 4 seriously. Ten men are reported missing and every effort is being made to rescue them where ever they are.

From Page One

Delhi lost ₹2,000 cr. due to excise policy: CAG

It was titled 'Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Performance Audit on Regulation and Supply of Liquor in Delhi'.

The AAP government's failure to table 14 CAG reports, including the one on the excise policy, had become a point of contention, with BJP MLAs filing a petition in the Delhi High Court last year, seeking a direction to the Speaker to call a sitting of the Assembly for the tabling of the reports. At a January 13 hearing, the HC said the CAG reports should have been promptly placed before the Assembly for discussion, adding that the State government "dragging its feet" on the issue raised "doubts on its bonafides".

At its first meeting on Thursday, the new BJP-led State Cabinet decided to table the 14 pending CAG reports in the Delhi Assembly.

Revenue losses

According to the CAG report on the excise policy, the Delhi government suffered a revenue loss of approximately ₹890 crore due to its failure to retender the surrendered retail licenses for liquor vends. Exemptions for zonal licensees caused a further revenue loss of about ₹941 crore, the report said, listing an additional loss of ₹144 crore due to the waiver of licence fees, and ₹27 crore due to the incorrect collection of security deposits from zonal licensees.

Before the new excise policy, which was implemented on November 17, 2021, there were both private and government-run liquor vendors in the city. But under the new policy, the government exited from the business of liquor sales.

The CAG also highlighted other problems with the policy and noted that the recommendations of an expert committee, formed to suggest policy changes, had been "ignored" without any recorded justification. "Responsibility and accountability should be fixed for the lapses observed and the enforcement mechanism should be strengthened," the report said.

"Further, in violation of Cabinet decision, necessary permissions from the Cabinet/opinion of the Lieutenant Governor were not obtained before giving important exemptions/relaxations having revenue implications," the report said.

Sajjan Kumar gets life term in 1984 riot case

"In these circumstances, I am of the considered opinion that this is a fit case where the convict must also be awarded life imprisonment for the offence punishable under Section 436 IPC r/w Section 149 IPC in addition to fine," the court said.

On February 12, this court had convicted the former Congress MP for the murder of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh in Delhi's Saraswati Vihar on November 1, 1984. The FIR was registered at the Punjabi Bagh police station but it did not name Sajjan Kumar as an accused since the complainant was not aware of his credentials and he approached the police with a complaint alleging the then MP's involvement only after he saw a photo of the MP in a magazine.

In 2014, the Centre constituted a committee under Justice G.P. Mathur to examine the possibility of re-investigating the anti-Sikh riot cases through an SIT. The committee recommended that the Saraswati Vihar case and 113 other cases from 1984 be re-opened and probed.

The SIT, in its chargesheet, had alleged that Kumar led a mob and upon his instigation and abetment, the mob burnt alive the victims, destroyed and looted their household articles, burnt their house and attacked their family members.

SC reinstates Bihar MLC Sunil Kumar

"The absence of a duly elected representative disrupts the democratic process and undermines the voice of the electorate. In such a situation, if the punishment inflicted upon the member concerned appears to be *prima facie* harsh and disproportionate, constitutional courts owe a duty to undo such gross injustice and review the proportionality of such disqualifications or expulsions," Justice Kant noted.

The purpose of punishment is not to serve as a tool for retribution but rather to uphold and enforce discipline within the House, the court pointed out. The primary objective must be to maintain decorum and foster an environment of constructive debate and deliberation, it added.

The Bench held that there was no absolute bar on constitutional courts reviewing the proportionality of the punishment imposed on a member while reviewing the validity of the action taken by the House. Punitive measures taken by the House must not "unduly stifle democratic participation or undermine the representative nature of the institution", it said.

The court also rebuked Mr. Singh, finding his conduct unbecoming of his position as a lawmaker. "There is no place for aggression and indecency in the proceedings of the Parliament or the Legislature. Members are expected to show complete respect and deference towards each other," Justice Kant observed.

The judgment modified Mr. Singh's July 2024 expulsion into a suspension. He will get no remuneration for the seven months of his suspension, but will remain eligible for all the perks and benefits of a full term at the end of his tenure.

'Accepting Taliban envoy in Delhi will undermine India's credibility'

Afghan exiles at Herat Security Dialogue urge India to maintain its stated foreign policy regarding terrorists; appeals come after reports surface that India is on the verge of allowing Taliban appointee to head Afghanistan Embassy in New Delhi

Suhasini Haidar
MADRID

Afghans-in-exile leaders and diplomats gather for a conference in Madrid to discuss Afghanistan's future. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Amidst a growing number of reports that India will accept a Taliban-appointed diplomat to head the Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi, speakers at a conference of prominent Afghan exiles urged New Delhi to not "normalise" its engagement with the regime in Kabul. The reports carried by Afghan media, citing Taliban Foreign Ministry officials and international news agency Bloomberg, followed weeks after India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met with the Taliban's 'Acting' Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai on January 8. This is the highest-level engagement the Indian government has conducted with the Taliban since the latter took power in Kabul in August 2021.

In November 2024, New Delhi accepted a Taliban-approved nominee, Ikramuddin Kamil, as 'Acting Consul-General' in Mumbai. If India were to allow a Taliban-appointed nominee to head the Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi, it would join other countries, including China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran, the UAE, Qatar and Central Asian states, while at least 16 countries have rejected the Taliban's nominees, and still host Ambassadors of the Afghan Republic.

Speaking to *The Hindu* at the Herat Security Dialogue in Madrid organised by the Afghanistan Institute of Strategic Studies, which is now based in London, former senior officials and diplomats cautioned against any such move.

"This shift [will] mark a stark departure from India's historical stance and undermine its credibility as a nation that has long condemned terrorism in all forms. The Afghan people expect India to uphold its own stated foreign policy of making no distinction between 'good' and 'bad' terrorists, demonstrating a principled and consistent approach rather than one driven by short-term geopolitical calculations," former Afghan Ambassador Ashraf Haidari said.

Mr. Haidari is the founder and president of Displaced International, an agency advocating for the rights of those displaced by conflict.

Mr. Haidari, who was also Afghanistan's Deputy Chief of Mission in New Delhi and then Ambassador to Sri Lanka in the pre-Taliban era, has been critical of India's decision to engage with the Taliban while refusing visas to Afghans, including thousands of students who gained admission to universities in India.

Asked about the possible move, India's former Ambassador to Afghanistan Jayant Prasad, who too attended the conference, said India had "done well" to engage the Taliban, as it was the "*de facto* authority" and connection to the Afghan people. However, he stressed that the government "should not provide legitimacy to the Islamic Emirate at a time it has refused political dialogue to create an inclusive government, and is engaged in the persistent and systematic oppression of women and minorities".

According to reports carried by Amu TV, Indian officials are "close to finalising an agreement" for two Taliban-approved officials to manage the affairs at the Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi, which has been in limbo for over a year.

Thus far, the External Affairs Ministry has maintained that any such reports were "hypothetical".

(The correspondent covered the Herat Security Dialogue at the invitation of the Afghanistan Institute of Strategic Studies.)

Existing norms duly address caste bias concerns, NAAC tells SC

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Weeks after the Supreme Court directed the University Grants Commission (UGC) to collate complaints of caste discrimination across higher education institutions (HEIs) in India, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has told the top court that its existing measures for assessment and grading of HEIs "effectively address concerns related to caste-based discrimination, mental health, and equal opportunities".

The NAAC was responding to the batch of pleas filed by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, respectively, who had prayed for the Supreme Court to act on caste discrimination allegedly "rampant" at universities, arguing this had claimed their children's lives.

In the counter affidavit filed by the NAAC, an autonomous body of the UGC, which is also listed as a respondent in the pleas, the accrediting body said that its "holistic approach to accreditation, which includes the detailed evaluation of the SSR (Self Study Report) and assessment of both qualitative and quantitative data, ensures that institutions maintain the highest standards of equity, inclusivity, and social responsibility".

The NAAC said that SSRs assess 87 specific metrics directly related to "mental well-being, equal opportunities, and overall welfare of students", which includes monitoring quota implementation.

It added that there are mandated requirements for universities to set up grievance redressal mechanisms.

The petitioners had argued that the NAAC does not have any caste discrimination-related metrics or indicators in their accreditation process. In its counter affidavit, the NAAC went on to say that it requires institutions to implement "specific measures to foster an inclusive environment" for students of all backgrounds.

India's last imported warship likely to be commissioned in June

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy crew that will operate *Tamal*, the stealth frigate under construction in Russia, reached St. Petersburg last week in preparation for its commissioning, which is expected to take place in early June.

The event is significant as *Tamal* will be the last warship to be commissioned outside India or imported. The country now designs and constructs its own warships.

The commissioning crew of around 200 personnel reached St. Petersburg around 10 days ago for training as the ship will undergo a series of trials leading up to its commissioning, officials sources in the know confirmed. The crew will shift to Kaliningrad after the training to oversee the trials.

The ship is being built as part of the deal for four additional follow-on stealth frigates under an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed in October 2016. Under the deal, two ships are to be imported and two manufactured by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL) under technology transfer. A $1-billion deal was subsequently signed for the two frigates under direct purchase.

Tamal has completed manufacturer trials and is currently undergoing State Committee Trials. It will then go through delivery acceptance trials, both in harbour and at sea, which will be spread over 45 to 50 days, sources said, explaining the process.

Coast Guard helps secure India's sovereignty, stops illegal infiltration: Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) caught 115 pirates over the last year and seized an illegal drug shipment worth ₹37,000 crore, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, listing the force's achievements.

In addition to such conventional threats, the Coast Guard must now help combat cyberattacks, signal jamming, and other emerging crimes that threaten the country, he added.

By being alert on the maritime borders, the Coast Guard not only stops illegal infiltration but also positively impacts India's sovereignty and internal security, the Defence Minister said at the 18th ICG investiture ceremony where he conferred 32 gallantry, distinguished service, and meritorious service medals on Coast Guard personnel.

Rajnath Singh at Coast Guard's investiture ceremony at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi. ANI

"In the last one year, ICG has achieved significant achievements in maritime safety, security and humanitarian operations. It apprehended 14 boats and 115 pirates, apart from carrying out a major drug seizure of about ₹37,000 crore. In addition, ICG saved 169 lives through various rescue operations and provided medical assistance to 29 seriously injured people," Mr. Singh said.

Flagging the emergence of unconventional threats due to the latest technological advancements, he called upon the marine forces, especially the Coast Guard, to remain alert to cyberattacks, data breaches, signal jamming, radar disruption, and GPS spoofing, in addition to the conventional threats.

Radical Meitei group seeks border fence, Manipur NRC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Representatives of the armed radical Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol (AT) on Tuesday met Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and submitted a memorandum, seeking border fencing, implementation of the NRC with 1951 as cut-off, and "no arrest or legal action" against village volunteers, including members of AT.

This comes within days of a call given by Mr. Bhalla asking all civilians to surrender their weapons in the interest of bringing peace and normalcy back to the State.

The Raj Bhavan in Manipur did not immediately issue any public statement on the meeting.

In the memorandum, the AT sought the abrogation of the Suspension of Operations Pact with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups, withdrawal of ST status from "illegal immigrants" and their deportation, and to "reinstate" ST status for the Meitei community.

'BJP spent ₹1,755 crore on poll campaigns, general propaganda in 2023-24'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spent ₹1,755 crore on election or general propaganda in 2023-24, the lion's share of its expenditure that year, according to an analytical report by the non-profit organisation Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The Congress spent ₹619.672 crore on election-related expenses, said the report, which analysed the total income and expenditure of all six national parties as declared by them in their annual audit report submitted to the Election Commission.

Among other expenses, the BJP spent ₹349.71 crore towards administrative costs, while the Congress spent ₹340.7 crore towards administrative and general expenses.

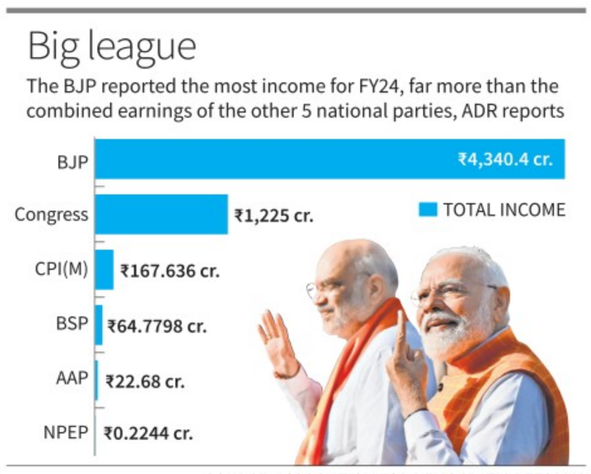
The Communist Party of India (Marxist) spent ₹56.29 crore on administrative and general expenses, followed by ₹47.57 crore on employee costs.

The six national parties – BJP, Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), CPI(M), Aam Aadmi Party, and National People's Party (NPEP) – declared a total income of ₹2,669.865 crore from donations or contributions.

The BJP, Congress, and AAP collected 43.36% (₹2,524.13 crore) of their total income from donations through the now-defunct electoral bonds.

The BJP received electoral bonds worth ₹1,685.62 crore, the Congress ₹828.36 crore, and the AAP ₹10.15 crore.

The due date for submission of annual audited accounts for the parties was October 31, 2024, but only the BSP, NPEP and AAP submitted their audit reports on time, while the CPI(M), Congress and BJP submitted after a delay of 12 days, 53 days and 66 days, respectively.



SOURCE: ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

SC reserves verdict on suit against police encounters in Assam

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Assam government on Tuesday strongly objected to a public interest petition accusing it of violating a 2014 Supreme Court judgment for a scientific, well-documented and decisive investigation by an independent agency into 171 police encounters that allegedly took place in the State between May 2021 and August 2022.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said the judgment in *People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) versus State of Maharashtra* on police encounter deaths was binding on the State and was followed "to the hilt". The judgment had held that "killings in police encounters require independent investigation" to restore the public's faith in the police force.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, for petitioner Arif Mohammad Yeasin Jwaedder, said the 16 guidelines of the PUCL judgment were "rampantly violated" by the Assam establishment.

The court reserved the case for judgment.

APPEAL

3 years old Srihari is suffering from B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia and urgently requires Chemotherapy at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research** Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. He is from a very poor family and they cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to undergo the treatment. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C.No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph:044-42137401/28235324/7338978027/31523781.**

E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.

Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

Bill on simultaneous polls will fail legal challenge, former CJI tells House panel

Justice U.U. Lalit (retd.) backs underlying principle, but says curtailing the tenure of the Assemblies to synchronise polls runs counter to the Basic Structure of Constitution; former Law Commission Chairperson says simultaneous polls help cost optimisation; panel to meet again on March 10

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

In its current form, the Bill on simultaneous elections will not sustain a legal challenge in the Supreme Court, former Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit said in a submission before the Parliamentary Joint Committee reviewing the legislation on Tuesday.

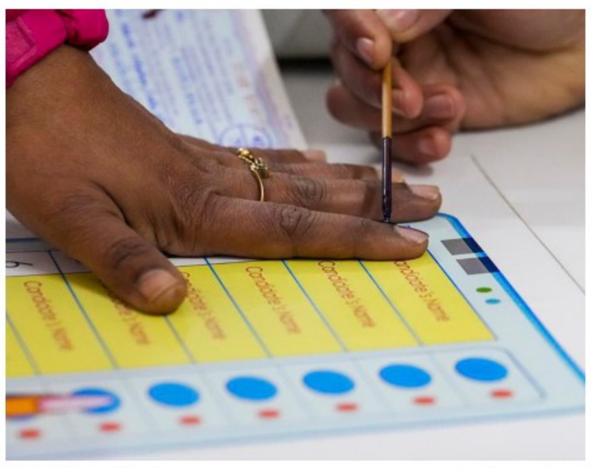
Sources said Justice Lalit said that the provision to curtail the tenure of the Assemblies to synchronise the polls runs counter to the Basic Structure of Constitution, which is protected by the *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment.

The committee, headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary, is reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024.

The Bill seeks to empower the Election Commission to conduct simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies.

To synchronise the elections, the Bill includes a provision enabling the President to set an "appointed date", through a notification issued on the first sitting of the Lok Sabha post a general election. This "appointed date" will mark the beginning of the new electoral cycle.

The Assemblies formed after that date and before the completion of the Lok Sabha's term will conclude their own term before the subsequent Lok Sabha election. After this, elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies will be held simultaneously.



Deep dive: A Parliamentary Joint Committee headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary is reviewing the legislation. PTI

'Staggered approach'

Sources said Justice Lalit supported the underlying principle of the legislation, but said that curtailing the tenure of the Assemblies on the "appointed date" will not pass legal scrutiny in the Supreme Court. He made a distinction between the "non-substantial" or "peripheral" tenure of an Assembly versus the "substantial term".

The former Chief Justice said that if 30% to 40% of the tenure of an Assembly is yet to be concluded, it fell under the category of a "substantial" term, and curtailing it would be considered a violation of the Basic Structure of the Constitution. Instead, sources said, Justice Lalit suggested a staggered approach, with the Assemblies being disbanded in batches.

At this point, an Opposition member of the panel pointed out that the electoral cycle had evolved organically, without any constitutional fiat, from the initial elections during colonial rule under the 1935 Government of India Act till the Lok Sabha and Assembly electoral cycle diverged after the 1967 election. Justice Lalit, sources said, conceded that the proposed legislative intervention could stunt such an organic evolution.

The curtailment of the tenure of the Assemblies has been a major concern for several parties, including the Janata Dal(U), which is a partner in the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, and also leads the NDA government in Bihar. Rajya Sabha member and JD(U) national general secretary Sanjay K. Jha, who is a former member of the panel, had raised this question.

Congress MP Manish Tewari, while opposing the introduction of the Bill in the Lok Sabha, had argued that the State legislatures stand on an equal constitutional footing with Parliament and therefore cannot be made subservient, as this legislation aims to do.

The panel's discussion with Justice Lalit went on for nearly three hours, with several interventions and questions from the Opposition members, sources said.

Cutting costs

Former Law Commission Chairperson Ritu Raj Awasthi also appeared before the panel.

Arguing in support of the legislation, Justice Awasthi called it a "transformative idea" which will address challenges such as "policy paralysis, governance inefficiencies, excessive election-related expenditure, and the prolonged deployment of security and administrative personnel".

Justice Awasthi argued, sources said, that simultaneous elections would allow for cost optimisation. The parliamentary polls are funded by the Union government, while the Assembly elections are funded by the States.

The average expenditure per Assembly constituency for the 2019 Lok Sabha election and subsequent Assembly elections revealed that both incurred nearly the same costs. In certain cases, Justice Awasthi said, citing the examples of Delhi and Haryana, the Assembly election expenditure even exceeded that of the Lok Sabha election.

The meeting began with more than an hour of wrangling over procedures. Opposition members demanded that a consolidated list of the witnesses to be called to appear before the panel must be shared. The next meeting of the panel is scheduled for March 10.

INBRIEF

Mohammad Salim re-elected West Bengal CPI(M) secretary

Communist Party of India (Marxist) West Bengal committee has re-elected Mohammad Salim as the party's State secretary. At a three-day meeting that concluded on Tuesday, the party pledged to raise its voice against the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Trinamool Congress in the run-up to the Assembly election in 2026. Mr. Salim, who was elected unanimously, said the BJP was trying to bring about a communal divide, for which the Trinamool Congress had created the base.

Trinamool leader says Home Ministry underutilising funds

Flagging the "underutilisation" of funds by the Union Home Ministry under several heads, Trinamool Congress leader Derek O' Brien in a letter to the Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs, Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, has sought more clarity on Centre's plans for "effective utilisation". He said ₹2.44 crore under the Central scheme for assistance to victims of terrorism and communal violence was unspent, which resulted in "inability to reimburse" the States. "This poses a serious concern regarding the effective utilisation of the funds and the assistance that should have been provided to the victims," he said.

Scholarships of SC, ST, OBC students being cut: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused the Centre of "usurping" scholarships meant for students from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, OBC and minority communities.

He said the number of beneficiaries of pre-matric scholarships for OBC students had come down by 77% over five years, while those meant for minorities have plunged 94% in four years. Scholarships for SC students had dropped 57%. "These shameful government statistics show that the government has not only drastically reduced the beneficiaries in all scholarships, but has spent 25% less funds on an average year after year," he said.

Parents held, shop razed over charge against son for 'anti-India slogans'

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

After India won against Pakistan in the Champions Trophy cricket match in Dubai on Sunday, the police have arrested the parents of a minor boy who allegedly raised "anti-India slogans" in Malvan town in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

The Malvan Municipal Corporation has demolished the scrap shop of the father on a complaint from Shiv Sena MLA Nilesh Rane.

The police said on Tuesday that they had filed a case on Monday at the Malvan police station on a complaint by Sachin Sandeep Varadkar of Hadi village in Malvan.

The police said the case was filed against the parents and the minor. They have been identified as Katabulla Khan (38), Ayesha Khan (35), and their son.

The Malvan Municipal Corporation demolishing a scrap dealer's shop after a Shiv Sena leader filed a complaint. X/@MENEELESHNRANE

"We have arrested the adults and not the minor boy. The minor allegedly raised the slogans "*Afghanistan Zindabad*", "*India gaya bhad mein*", and "*Hindustan Murdabad*," a police officer told *The Hindu*.

The accused have been booked under Sections 196 (1)(a) (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion), 197 (1)(a), 197(1)(c) (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration), 131 (punishment for assault or criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation, and 3(5) (joint criminal liability when two or more individuals act in furtherance of a common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The complaint said a group of boys were celebrating India's win over Pakistan and one of them allegedly raised anti-India slogans, leading to an altercation with the local people.

However, no videos or other evidence are available in the public domain.

Mr. Rane confirmed that he had asked the civic body to take action against the family.

"The accused said he is from Uttar Pradesh, but he is not giving any address. They [the family] came to Malvan 10 years ago. The police are investigating why and how they came to Malvan. Their vehicles are not registered, including a bike and truck. Aadhaar card is also fake. The police are investigating," Mr. Rane said in the video posted on social media platform X.

Reciprocal tariffs a negation of all accepted principles of international trade: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Asserting that reciprocal tariffs are a complete negation of all accepted principles of international trade, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should "summon the courage" to remind U.S. President Donald Trump that the 'T' in World Trade Organisation "stands for Trade not Trump".

The assertion comes after Mr. Trump spelt out his plan to increase tariffs to match the tax rates that other countries charge on imports from the U.S. and had mentioned that countries such as India and China would face reciprocal tariffs.

His colleague Pawan Khera had posed five questions to the Narendra Modi government on reciprocal tariffs by the U.S.

Jairam Ramesh

On the government's plan to protect the interests of domestic farmers, who make up 45.76% of the workforce and steps to ensure to prevent India from becoming a dumping ground for cheap U.S. agricultural imports, Mr. Khera asked: "Will the government now consider changes in domestic policy, particularly the legalisation of MSP, to provide basic income support to farmers?"

He asked about the government safeguarding the MSME sector, whose production will be severely impacted by costly exports and increased competition from foreign products. "What will be the impact of reciprocal tariffs on India's GDP," he asked.

In another post on X, Mr. Khera questioned the Modi government's diplomatic strategy in the wake of Mr. Trump reportedly allocating $397 million for Pakistan's F-16 fleet maintenance.

Such actions potentially compromise India's security interests, especially given the historical use of F-16s by Pakistan against India, he added.

Railways plans to run 350 trains during Maha Sivaratri to ferry Kumbh pilgrims

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The Railway Ministry is bracing to run 350 trains from Prayagraj during Maha Sivaratri to cater to swelling crowds. Over 63.36 crore pilgrims have taken a holy dip during the Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj, and over 1.11 crore visited the place on Tuesday.

The final *Amrit Snan* of Maha Kumbh is scheduled for Wednesday and large number of pilgrims from various States have gathered in Prayagraj to bathe at the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati, a Railway spokesperson said.

Similarly, arrangements have been made to run additional trains after the Maha Sivaratri *snan*, and extra rakes have been stationed near Prayagraj for use as needed. Initially, the Railways had planned for the operation of approximately 13,500 trains during the Maha Kumbh, and as of the 42nd day, more than 15,000 trains, including a large number of special trains, have been run.

Rush continues: Passengers jostle to board a train at Patna railway station on Tuesday. PTI

"After the *Amrit Snan*, a large number of people are expected to return to their home towns, which will likely lead to a heavy crowd at railway stations. Keeping this in mind, North Central Railway, North Eastern Railway, and Northern Railway have made extensive preparations, and all officials and staff have been directed to remain vigilant at their workstations," the spokesperson said.

Minister's instructions

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has instructed the Chairman of the Railway Board and General Managers of all zones to ensure complete care of the Kumbh passengers and, if necessary, run additional special trains.

In light of the large number of pilgrims expected on Maha Sivaratri, the Railways administration has made arrangements for the convenience of passengers, including security, shelters, and easy ticketing, apart from running a large number of trains. "Over 1,500 commercial department staff and 3,000 Railway Protection Force personnel have been deployed at all stations in Prayagraj region," the spokesperson said.

To ensure a smooth journey for pilgrims, internal movement plans have been implemented at all stations in the Prayagraj region, and pilgrims have been sent to their destinations via special trains.

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KERALA IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
NOTICE INVITING RFP
KIIDC, a PSU under Govt of Kerala invites **Request for Proposal (RFP) for Developing Irrigation Tourism Project in the Land Adjacent to the Alappuzha Changanassery Canal in Alappuzha and Kottayam Districts** under irrigation Department, GoK through PPP from Local Self-Government Organisations/ Institutions or Other Government Organisations/ Institutions or Private Organisations/Institutions or Individuals or Societies. Detailed RFP along with formats and timelines is uploaded in the KIIDC website: **kiidc.kerala.gov.in**
Chief Executive Officer

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : Re-Tender No 45/2024 - 25 / SE/PHC/ALP/RC/RT - 2 KIIFB - KUTTANAD DRINKING WATER PROJECT- PACKAGE - VIII, **EMD :** Rs.5,00,000/-, **Tender Fee :** Rs.19,518/-, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 10.03.2025, 02:00 pm, **Phone :** 0477-2237954.
Website: **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1182-2024-25 **PH Circle, Alappuzha**

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR
(EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECH)
Tel.No.: (0240) 2333536-40
Fax.No. : (0240) 2331213
Address: Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation Executive Engineer (Mech)
Head office: Town Hall, Pin No. 4311
E-Tender Call CSMC (For Help)
Mob No. : 9764999780
No/CSMC/Mech/97/2025 Date: 25/02/2025

Sr. No.	Work name	Last date of tender submission
1	Tender for "Supply, Installation, Erection and Commissioning of Transfer Station Equipments with 01 year warranty" at 6 Locations in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.	05.03.2025

Note :- Pre-bid meeting dt. 03/ 03 / 2025
For the above started work is available on web site www.mahatenders.gov.in
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Mech)
Municipal Corporation
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th 'B' Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru - 560040.
No: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-12/2024-25 **Date: 25-02-2025**
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	Two Cover Works
1	Improvement Works in Buleward Park at West of Chord Road in Dr. Rajkumar Agrahara Dasarahalli in Ward No. 135. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 500.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 6,15,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **03-03-2025 at 16.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **06-03-2025 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **07-03-2025 after 16.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals: **After approval of Technical Proposals through KPP Portal).** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP.

INBRIEF

SC to hear plea against 'trial run' to dispose Bhopal waste

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to urgently hear petitioners challenging the transportation and dumping of hazardous chemical waste from the Bhopal gas tragedy site at Pithampur on Thursday as the first case. A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai took the decision to hear the case without delay after petitioners made an urgent oral mentioning that a "trial run" to dispose 10 metric tonnes of waste likely to be held on Thursday. Justice Gavai addressed the State counsel of Madhya Pradesh that the court was not going to intervene unless the dumping of the waste was proved to be a hazard to the population of Pithampur.

AIIMS doctors conduct rare surgical procedure on teen

Doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi have successfully operated and saved the life of a 17-year-old boy (the identity of the patient has been withheld), who had a 'parasitic' twin, a fully developed lower limb attached to his abdomen since birth. This is an extremely rare anomaly, according to doctors. The boy came to the AIIMS in the last week of January. In a multi-department intervention, doctors undertook extensive pre-surgery investigations and then performed a two-and-a-half-hour long operation on the boy, separating the limb, which had adequate blood supply.

Women shifting from unpaid domestic work: govt. survey

Participation of women in employment-related work increases to 25% in 2024 from 21.8% in 2019; for men, it rose to 75% from 70.9%; women spent 305 minutes a day in unpaid domestic services

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The participation of men and women in the 15-59 age group in employment and related activities in a day increased to 75% and 25%, respectively, in 2024 from 70.9% and 21.8% in 2019, shows a survey on time use conducted by the National Statistics Office.

The time spent by women in unpaid domestic services dropped to 305 minutes in 2024 compared with 315 minutes in 2019, indicating a shift from unpaid to paid pursuits, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said in a statement based on the survey.

The "Time Use Survey" measured the time spent by individuals on different activities. It found that in 2024, people involved in employment and related activities spent 440 minutes a day for such activities. While men spent 473 minutes, women spent 341 minutes in such engagements.

Men spent 88 minutes a day in unpaid domestic services for household members, the survey said. "Females spent 137 minutes in a day in caring for their household members compared to 75 minutes spent by male members of the household," the survey said.

Although women are spending a little more time on paid work, they still manage the bulk of caregiving activities at home. FILE PHOTO

Leisure activities

Persons aged six and above who responded to the survey's questions spent 171 minutes a day for activities related to culture, leisure, and mass media use. "Male and female participants spent 177 minutes and 164 minutes, respectively in a day in such activities," it said.

Children between the age of six and 14 spent 413 minutes a day in learning-related activities. "Self-care and maintenance activities comprised an average of 708 minutes in a day for persons of age 6 years and above," the survey said.

The Ministry added in a statement that about 41% of women in the 15-59 age group participated in caregiving for their household members. The participation of men in this age group in such activity stood at 21.4%.

"Also, female participants in care-giving activities spent about 140 minutes in a day compared to 74 minutes by male respondents of the same age group. This corroborates the Indian social fabric wherein most of the caregiving responsibilities for household members are borne by the females of the household," the Ministry said.

About 16.8% of the population participated in producing goods for their own final use and they spent 116 minutes a day in doing such activities.

The survey covered 1,39,487 households – 83,247 in rural areas and 56,240 in urban areas. It enumerated 4,54,192 persons aged six and above (rural: 2,85,389 and urban: 1,68,803).

Free webinar on hypertension to be held on February 28

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, in collaboration with *The Hindu*, is set to host a webinar titled "Blood pressure: what you need to know" on February 28.

This event is part of the "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative, a series of 15 webinars aimed at promoting health awareness, disease prevention, and overall wellness across India.

The webinar, scheduled to be held at 11.30 a.m., is the fifth installment in the series.

naruvi
HEALTHY INDIA HAPPY INDIA
HEALTHIER CHOICES. HAPPIER LIVES.
JOIN US FOR A WEBINAR ON
BLOOD PRESSURE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

It is part of a series of 15 webinars aimed at promoting health awareness, disease prevention, and overall wellness across India

Panel of experts

It brings together a distinguished panel of experts to discuss various aspects of hypertension.

Dr. V. Chockalingam, Professor Emeritus of Cardiology at Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai, will address the treatment aspects of hypertension.

Dr. V. Jacob Jose, consultant cardiologist at Naruvi Hospitals, will provide an introduction to hypertension and its growing prevalence.

Dr. K. Suresh Kumar, consultant interventional cardiologist at Naruvi Hospitals, will explain how to measure blood pressure accurately and offer advice on the recommended methods.

Treatment target

Dr. T. R. Muralidharan, Director of Cardiac Sciences at SRM Global Hospital, SRM University, Chennai, will discuss how to define hypertension, elaborating on cut-off points and treatment targets.

The session will be moderated by Soma Basu, Senior Deputy Editor at *The Hindu*. Registration for the webinar is at newsth.live/HIHIUIE or you can scan the QR code.

ED arrests journalist Mahesh Langa in PMLA case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested *The Hindu's* Ahmedabad correspondent Mahesh Langa under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the agency said on Tuesday.

"Mahesh Prabhudan Langa was produced before the Special Judge (PMLA), Mirzapura Court, Ahmedabad, and the Special Judge (PMLA) has granted four days' ED custody till February 28, 2025," it said. The ED said it initiated a probe based on an FIR filed by the DCB police station, Ahmedabad City, against Mr. Langa and others for alleged cheating and criminal breach of trust. The ED said it was also probing alleged involvement in a "GST Input Tax Credit" case.

CBSE proposes draft policy for conducting two Board examinations from 2025-26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has proposed that from the academic year 2025-26, students of Class 10 can appear for Board examination twice, in a bid to improve their performance.

A draft policy has been put in public domain by the CBSE and the Board will accept responses from all stakeholders – schools, teachers, parents, students and the public – till March 9.

Scrutiny planned

"The responses will be scrutinised and policy will be finalised subsequently," said Sanyam Bhardwaj, Controller of Examinations, CBSE.

The National Education Policy, 2020 recommends that students be given an opportunity to improve their performance in Board exams.

The scheme proposes that Class 10 and 12 exams will begin on the first Tuesday after February 15. The second exam will be in July

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan chaired a meeting which discussed the issue.

The scheme proposes that Class 10 and 12 exams will begin on the first Tuesday after February 15, 2026. The improvement exam or the second exam will be scheduled in July 2026. Up to 26.6 lakh students in Class 10 and 20 lakh in Class 12 are expected to appear in the exams.

Students' choice

Students can either chose to appear for the Board exams the second time to improve their scores, or they can opt out from appearing for the second time.

"Performance in the first exam will be made available on DigiLocker, which can be used for admission to Class 11, in case the student does not wish to appear for the second examination," Mr. Bhardwaj said.

Marksheet and pass certificate will have marks secured in first exam, and the second exam, as well as marks secured in practice and internal assessments and grades. The better of the two marks will be mentioned.

CBSE lets schools open playschools and kindergartens on their premises

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

To accommodate playschools and kindergartens within the school premises, the Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued a notification approving opening of branch schools under the same name and affiliation as those of the parent school.

CBSE Secretary Himanshu Gupta told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that the change in the policy was in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) recommendation that schools should open Bal Vatikas or playschools for children aged three to five within their premises.

"With the new tweak in the policy, CBSE schools located within areas and cities where relaxed land norms are applicable on the land requirements for setting schools, can establish a branch school that includes services for Bal Vatika to Class 5," Mr. Gupta said.

The CBSE Secretary says the change in the policy is in line with the NEP recommendation to open playschools. FILE PHOTO

The branch school shall have a minimum contiguous land area of 1,200 square metres and shall be bound by a six-foot-high permanent wall, the CBSE has said.

While the branch school can be opened under the same name and affiliation number, a separate set of resources for physical and academic infrastructure as well as teaching and supporting staff is required, says the Affiliation Bylaws (Branch School), 2025. The main school shall run classes 6 to 11, they say.

Mr. Gupta said that close to 30,000 schools affiliated with the CBSE are eligible to apply for opening branch schools. "The schools can apply for establishing branch schools with effect from the academic year 2026-27 on the SARAS portal," he said.

Separate panel

"The school management committees shall be separate, but there will be a common website for both schools, with a section dedicated to branch school," the notification says. The main and branch school shall have separate principals and headmistresses or headmasters, and there will be a seamless transition from branch school to main school for students.

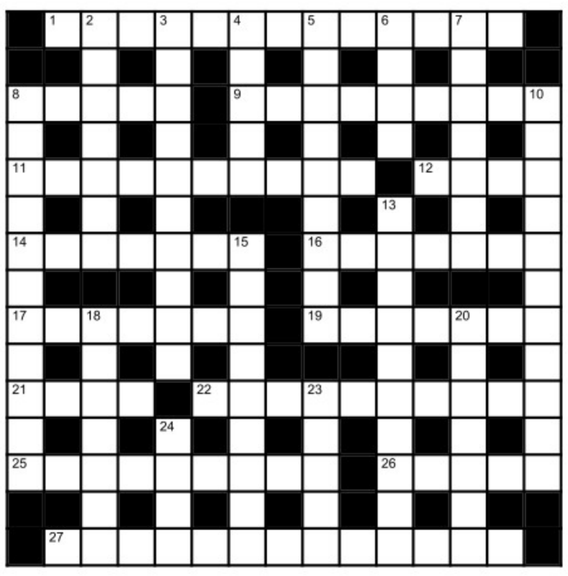
"The school will not consider these students as new admissions in main school," it notes. For Bal Vatika to be established, the CBSE has stated that the teacher-pupil ratio will be 1:30.

TH CROSSWORD + 14418

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 One found in bathroom cuddling scoundrel in the raw so naughtily (6,7)
8 Slight delay? Time is money (5)
9 Book's remarkable thus far, outlining many skills for surviving in the wilderness (9)
11 Mock trial organised to tackle doubt about spies (10)
12 Member of a Native American people in dance institute (4)
14 Showed most outstanding butt (7)
16 Hampered by rascal's vile deed (7)
17 The French criminal stealing millions is brilliant (7)
19 Trash container in French station (7)
21 Stormy weather to begin with - cancelled motor race in US (4)
22 Bias of reporters taking bribe, backing faction endlessly (10)
25 Spooner observed magnificent type of sedimentary rock (9)
26 Encourage one struggling to control horse (3,2)
27 Powerful person in the background is cool during treatment of emergencies (8,5)

Down

2 Loves to cuddle husband in cosy places by the fire (7)
3 Shy person left crushed by error, turning more depressed (10)
4 Spilled beer on top of costly medieval instrument (5)
5 Removing unreliable agent in US (9)
6 Senorita cooking some Mexican dish (4)
7 Where letters are found, briefly (2,1,4)
8 Brilliant acting! Small girl secures top position in ad for show (4,7)
10 He perhaps sent horrid criminal to abduct prince (5,6)
13 Place to catch glimpse of ravishing woman in brown athletic clothes (10)
15 Put down container over top of armoire, please (9)
18 Trimmed junk in period of pregnancy (7)
20 Retaliates with nerve gas, cruelly killing king (7)
23 Father and daughter in dock (5)
24 Privy to star wanting cocaine for nerves at premiere (2,2)

SUDOKU

2					4		3	
				2	1			4
1	6						9	
8			1				4	
3								8
	5				6			9
	3						5	7
6			8	5				
	8		9					2

No.SS6442 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

B	A	C	K	A	C	H	E	■
E	■	O	■	T	■	I	■	G
L	A	M	P	A	N	G	■	O
T	■	P	■	N	■	H	■	T
E	N	E	M	Y	■	C	L	O
R	■	L	■	C	■	O	■	A
■	■	■	C	O	M	M	E	N
I	■	T	■	S	■	M	■	Y
S	W	E	E	T	W	I	L	L
O	■	E	■	■	■	S	■	E
P	I	T	C	H	E	S	I	N
R	■	O	■	O	■	I	■	G
E	A	T	I	N	T	O	■	T
N	■	U	■	E	■	N	■	H
E	N	M	E	S	H	■	E	S

C	O	B	W	E	B			
■	V	■	H	■	A			
O	R	A	T	I	O	N		
■	T	■	T	■	I			
C	L	O	S	E	N	E	S	S
A	■	■	■	C	■	H		
N	S	U	R	A	T	E		
L	■	P	■	D				
I	A	M	■	■				
N	■	M	■	G				
B	L	U	F	F				
A	■	S	■	O				
T	T	L	E	R				
O	■	I	■	C				
T	R	A	N	G	E			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	9	1	7	4	3	8	5
5	3	7	9	8	2	4	6	1
4	1	8	6	5	3	9	7	2
2	9	5	8	4	7	6	1	3
7	8	6	3	9	1	2	5	4
3	4	1	5	2	6	7	9	8
1	7	3	2	6	8	5	4	9
8	5	4	7	3	9	1	2	6
9	6	2	4	1	5	8	3	7

FAITH

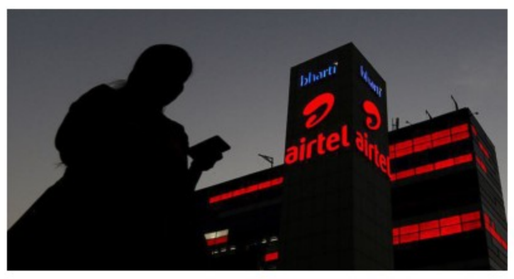
Maha Sivaratri significance

Maha Sivaratri is an important Hindu festival celebrated to commemorate Lord Siva. It is observed on the fourteenth day of the first half of the lunar month of *Phagun*. The festival finds mention in the Skanda Puranam, Linga Puranam, Padma Puranam and Siva Puranam. On this day the natural flow of cosmic energies are particularly potent. Siva is believed to be the absolute timeless Supreme Being: the ultimate creator and destroyer, said Prof. Kumool Abbi.

Various cosmological legends and narratives reflecting the multiple, diverse beliefs are associated with the festival of the night. One legend celebrates Sivaratri as the night Siva weds Parvati. In the Shavia tradition, it is held that the dance of creation, preservation and destruction is performed by Siva on this night; the dance of cosmic, galactic particles throbbing and resonating with the divine rhythm, of creation and dissolution of infinite universes.

Another legend states that Siva swallowed the *halahala* (poison) that was created during the churning of the ocean, to save creation. He held it in his neck which became blue, thus giving him the title of Neelakanth. Maha Sivaratri honours this deed. It is also believed that on this day Siva became one with Mount Kailas. He became like a mountain, absolutely still, in the yogic tradition considered as a Adiyogi immersed in his own being. The Linga Purana states that on this day Siva took the form of the Lingam. Offerings of *bilva* leaves, sweets and milk are made and the sacred mantra, 'Om nama: Sivaya', is chanted and Siv Chalis recited. Devotees fast and keep a vigil, praying all night.

INBRIEF



'Tata, Bharti close to merging satellite TV businesses'

Tata Group and Bharti Group are close to merging their satellite TV businesses, creating a nearly $1.6 billion entity with the aim of tiding over the sustained migration of subscribers to digital streaming, according to a local media report on Tuesday. The merged entity is expected to be run by Bharti Airtel, which will likely hold 52-55% with the remaining held by Tata Play shareholders, including Walt Disney, the report said, citing sources. REUTERS

'FIIs optimistic on India due to stable policy atmosphere'

Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) are positive about India's outlook in the next 3-5 years due to a relatively stable policy atmosphere among other structural reasons, said Pratik Gupta, CEO and co-head Kotak Institutional Equities. FIIs see India's democracy to be politically stable compared with China and the U.S., Mr. Gupta said. He noted that the smaller share of exports in India's GDP, despite being a domestic cause for concern, was an insulation from excessive tariffs.

Dr. Reddy's API plant gets VAI classification from U.S. FDA

An active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) manufacturing facility of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in Bollaram, Hyderabad, inspected last year by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has since been classified as voluntary action indicated (VAI) by the agency."The U.S. FDA has classified the inspection as VAI and concluded that the inspection is closed," the generic drugmaker said on Tuesday in an update to the stock exchanges.

Rupee plunges to 87.19 against U.S. dollar on FII sell-off, Trump threat

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The rupee fell sharply by 47 paise to settle at 87.19 against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday due to month-end dollar demand by importers amid uncertainty over U.S. trade tariffs.

Elevated greenback against major currencies and sustained FII outflows also contributed to the decline in the domestic unit, forex traders said.

"The rupee fell by more than half a percent against the dollar, marking its biggest intra-day drop in the past three weeks.

However, after the steep fall, a slight recovery was observed," said Rahul Kalantri, vice-president (Commodities), Mehta Equities Ltd.

"The drop in the rupee against the dollar came after U.S. President Trump's statement on tariffs related to Mexico and Canada. Adding to this, fresh sell-off in the domestic equity markets from the FPIs put further pressure on the rupee," he said.

"The rupee traded very weak as FII sell-off continued and crude oil prices remained elevated amid U.S. tariffs on Iran, which pushed oil demand higher," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst – Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

"The dollar index at $106.65 also added to the pressure on the rupee," Mr. Trivedi said.

(With PTI inputs)

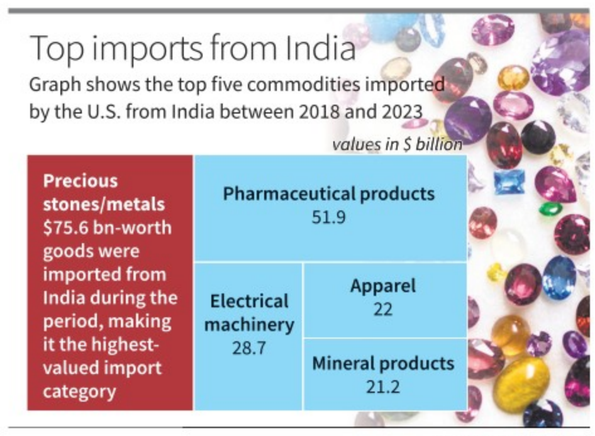
'India, U.S. in talks to mitigate impact of reciprocal tariffs'

Both countries are in talks for India to lower import tariffs on select U.S. products, increase market access for U.S. farm products, and increase U.S. energy purchases, says rating agency Moody's

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

India can mitigate the impact of higher U.S. tariffs through talks and by providing greater market access for farm products and increasing energy purchases, Moody's said on Tuesday.

"To mitigate pressure from reciprocal tariffs, the U.S. and India are reportedly now in talks for India to lower import tariffs on select U.S. products, increase market access for U.S. farm products and increase U.S. energy purchases, while seeking to initiate a trade deal by the fall of 2025," the rating agency said. In the Asia Pacific region, developing countries like India, Vietnam and Thailand have the widest rate differentials relative to the U.S. The most exposed sectors from here include electronics, motor vehicles, food and textiles.


Top imports from India
Graph shows the top five commodities imported by the U.S. from India between 2018 and 2023
values in $ billion
Precious stones/metals
$75.6 bn-worth goods were imported from India during the period, making it the highest-valued import category
Pharmaceutical products
51.9
Electrical machinery
28.7
Apparel
22
Mineral products
21.2

Source: UN Comtrade

As far as India is concerned, it has lower overall exposure relative to most others countries in the region, although certain sectors such as food, textiles and pharma products face risks, Moody's said.

Amnish Aggarwal, Director, Institutional Research, Prabhudas Lilladher, said India is unlikely to experience any "meaningful negative effect" from U.S. policies as soft crude oil prices, geopolitical stability, and increased technology transfer to India would neutralise the costs of Trump's tariffs.

Maruti Suzuki starts production from its facility in Kharkhoda

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) on Tuesday said it had begun commercial production at its Kharkhoda facility in Haryana.

The foundation stone for this facility was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2022 virtually. To begin with, the Kharkhoda facility will have an annual production capacity of 2,50,000 units and will produce the compact SUV Brezza, the company said in a statement.

With this, MSIL, including Suzuki Motor Gujarat Pvt. Ltd., will have a total annual production capacity of 2.6 million units.

Reserve Bank lowers risk weight on banks' exposure to NBFCs

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lowered the risk weight on the exposure of Scheduled Commercial Banks' (SCBs) lending to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and microfinance loans.

The risk weight on the exposures was increased by 25 percentage points in 2023 in the case of NBFCs and on a review, the RBI decided to restore the risk weights applicable to such exposures, the central bank said, adding that this would come into effect from April 1.

"It is a welcome move in view of the current headwinds faced by the sector; this shall to an extent provide some relief to the players and facilitate credit flow to a broader set of players than what was witnessed in the recent past," said A.M. Karthik senior vice-president, Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	74,602	0.20
US Dollar	87.19	-0.54
Gold	89,350	0.28
Brent oil	72.98	-2.35

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2129.85	14.70
Adani Ports	1080.35	9.95
Apollo Hosp	6251.35	-0.05
Asian Paints	2224.75	-21.45
Axis Bank	1009.10	-0.95
Bajaj Auto	8417.90	-29.05
Bajaj Finserv	1875.10	17.30
Bajaj Finance	8488.80	133.85
Bharat Elec	256.65	0.30
Bharti Airtel	1641.40	40.10
BPCL	248.45	-2.55
Britannia Ind	4798.05	-6.25
Cipla	1463.35	-13.40
Coal India	361.15	-3.65
Dr Reddys Lab	1128.15	-36.40
Eicher Motors	4989.80	-21.00
Grasim Ind	2379.30	-14.40
HCL Tech	1636.10	-7.95
HDFC Bank	1682.35	5.25
HDFC Life	622.15	5.15
Hero MotoCorp	3828.25	-56.60
Hindalco	619.45	-22.45
Hind Unilever	2259.30	17.85
ICICI Bank	1224.15	5.80
IndusInd Bank	1034.25	5.10
Infosys	1767.70	3.60
ITC	404.85	2.95
JSW Steel	958.75	-8.05
Kotak Bank	1967.25	1.15
L&T	3225.90	-31.80
M&M	2777.85	68.65
Maruti Suzuki	12476.35	131.15
NestleIndia	2250.40	30.00
NTPC	318.70	-1.40
ONGC	233.00	-1.35
PowerGrid Corp	255.75	-3.40
Reliance Ind	1204.00	-10.55
SBI Life	1471.75	-14.75
State Bank	710.90	-5.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	574.25	-2.95
Sun Pharma	1613.60	-25.90
TataConsumerProduct	1004.85	2.45
Tata Motors	661.60	-6.65
Tata Steel	137.07	-0.58
TCS	3629.55	-46.05
Tech Mahindra	1593.95	-19.75
Titan	3198.80	25.80
Trent Ltd.	4959.90	-106.10
UltraTech Cement	10964.15	-78.50
Wipro	291.30	-3.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 25

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.01	87.33
Euro	91.12	91.46
British Pound	109.85	110.26
Japanese Yen (100)	58.10	58.32
Chinese Yuan	11.98	12.02
Swiss Franc	97.09	97.46
Singapore Dollar	64.93	65.18
Canadian Dollar	60.98	61.21
Malaysian Ringitt	19.66	19.75
Australian Dollar	55.05	55.26

Source:Indian Bank

IREDA shareholders give nod to ₹5,000-crore fund-raise plan via QIP of equity shares

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Shareholders of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) have approved the company's proposal to raise up to ₹5,000 crore through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) of equity shares in one or multiple tranches.

The approval was granted by the shareholders in favour of the resolution via remote e-voting during the 22nd extra-ordinary general meeting (EGM) conducted on Tuesday.

IREDA's board had earlier approved the fundraising plan on January 23, which includes the dilution of the Government of India's shareholding in the company by up to 7% post-issue equity, in one or multiple tranches.

Post QIP, Centre's stake in IREDA will reduce by up to 7%.

"The funds [to be] raised through QIP will strengthen our green financing capabilities, accelerate loan book growth, and support India's clean energy targets," said Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, while addressing the shareholders at the EGM.

He said IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the company, recently received the certificate of registration from the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA), allowing it to commence business as a finance company at GIFT City, Gujarat.

"This milestone strengthens IREDA's commitment to lending and serving in foreign currency by reducing hedging risks," Mr. Das added.

Tata Capital board approves $1-bn IPO, ₹1,504-cr. rights issue

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

According to the Reserve Bank of India norms, the company has to get listed by September

The board of directors of Tata Capital Ltd., at a meeting on Tuesday, approved a proposal by the company for a $1 billion initial public offering (IPO) and a ₹1,504 crore rights issue.

The company's equity shares have a face value of ₹10 each. The record date for the rights issue would be February 25.

Fresh issue

The IPO would comprise fresh issue of up to 23 crore equity shares and an offer for sale of equity shares by certain existing and eligible shareholders of the company, subject to receipt of approvals, the company said in a filing.

As per Reserve Bank of India norms, the company has to get listed by September. Once listed, this would be the 17th Tata Group company whose shares would be traded on the stock exchanges.

'Govt. mulls green finance unit to reach climate goals'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government is working to set up a National Green Financing Institution to support its net-zero target by 2070, as current finance flows for climate initiatives remain much lower than the desired levels, NITI Aayog has said.

"A dedicated National Green Financing Institution may be envisaged to bridge the huge gap," the Aayog said in its annual report, adding primary purpose of the institution will be to aggregate green capital from different sources and lower cost of capital.

सीएमपीडीआई
cmpdi
सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाईन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited) (कोल इण्डिया लिमिटेड की एक अनुषंगी कंपनी)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834 008, Jharkhand, INDIA

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurment Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in".**

KERALA STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT (KSCSTE)
Sasthrabhavan, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 004.
Phone: 0471- 2548316, website: www.kscste.kerala.gov.in

NOTIFICATION

The KSCSTE is seeking qualified candidates for the post of **DIRECTOR, NATPAC**
For details log on to **www.kscste.kerala.gov.in**.
Last date for the receipt of application is **20.03.2025, 5.00 p.m**
D3/188/2025/I&PRD — EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, विजयवाडा
School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada
An Institute of National Importance, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
Survey No.4/4, ITI Road, Vijayawada – 520 008, AP., India.
No. 1/SPAV/Acad/PhD/Admission/PhD — Date.26/02/2025

NOTIFICATION FOR ROLLING ADMISSIONS FOR DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

SPA Vijayawada announces rolling advertisement and invites applications for admission into **Doctoral Programmes (Part Time & Full Time PhD) in Architecture, Planning, and Building Engineering and Management, under various categories.** For further details like last date for receipt of applications, fee structure, application fee and process of admission, please log on to our website - **www.spav.ac.in** — Sd/- Registrar

OFFICE OF THE SE & PM WCDC ZILA PARISHAD ALWAR
File no. ( )/2423 — Date: 03-02-2025
NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB NO. 03/2024-25
Bids for FARM POND, MPT, PT, RTWHS, ANICUT, RECHAGE SHAFT, AMRIT SAROVER, ECD, TALAI NIRMAN, RTWHS, DEEP CCT, SSB, EARTHEN BUND, JOHAD RENOVATION, TALAB RENOVATION etc. Under PMKSY-2.0 project area in Block MALAKHERA, KATHUMAR, RAMGARH of Estimated value INR 483.61 Lacs [04 Package] are invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 PM, 26.02.2025 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/) of the State.
NIB CODE:- WSC2425A0547
UBN:-
1. WSC2425WSOB01165 2. WSC2425WSOB01166 3. WSC2425WSOB01167 4. WSC2425WSOB01168
[NARENDRA SINGH MOTHU]
Superitending Engineer and project Manager
WCDC Zilla Parishad Alwar
DIPR/C/2221/2025

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor, Sector - 11, Gandhinagar - 382 011
Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE

Expression of Interest is invited for **Empanelment of Agencies for undertaking Bid Process Management and conducting Third Party Monitoring during various Events, Fairs and Festivals of TCGL.**

The requirements, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the EOI document, which shall be available for download from the websites **https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from **27/02/2025.**

The last date for submission of the **EoI Application (both physical and online) is 15/03/2025 up to 3:00 pm.**

Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-19 of 2024-25, Letter No.399 /Dtd.20.02.2025
e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : **Roads (MMSY & CMRL)**
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-19 of 2024-25	27.02.2025 11:00 AM	17.03.2025 5:00 PM	13.03.2025 5:00 PM	18.03.2025 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer (I/C), Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
O-1538 : OIPR-25133/11/0035/2425

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT
IDENTIFICATION NO. RWS&S DIVN., PURI-30 OF 2024-25
☎(06752) 251276 ; E-mail:-eerwsspuri@gmail.com

The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate price bids through e-procurement in double cover system according to the norms of e-procurement system, in on-line mode from eligible contractors.

Sl.No.	Nature of work :	Rural Piped Water Supply
1.	No. of Works :	**01 (One)**
2.	Estimated Cost :	**Rs.118.48 lakh** (app.)
3.	Time for completion :	**12 (Twelve)** Months
4.	Cost of bidding document :	**Rs.10000/-**
5.	Class of Contractors eligible :	**B & A**
6.	Availability of bids on-line :	From **17 hour of 28.02.2025** to **17.00 hours of 17.03.2025**
7.	Last date and time for seeking clarification :	**17.00 hours of 13.03.2025**
8.	Date & time of Opening of technical bids :	On **dt 18.03.2025** at **11.30 Hours** in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri (All documents should be submitted in online only. No original documents should be dropped in dropping box before opening of technical bid in Division Office).
9.	Date and time of opening of Financial bids :	To be decided

Further details can be seen from the website **https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in**.Subsequent corrigendum if any shall appear in the web site.
Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri
O-1539 OIPR-25017/11/0015/2425

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti - 584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State. Tele: (08537) 275463, 276339
e-Mail: **material276339@gmail.com** Website: **www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in**

Tender Notification No. 26/24-25, Dt: 26.02.2025 (Through KPP Portal only)

Tender is invited by "The Senior Manager (Materials)" for the following tenders as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Hiring of PMC Service at HBGM. **HGML/2024-25/SE0034.**	3,83,000/-
2	Supply of Electric LHD 2.0 CU.M Bucket Capacity. **HGML/2024-25/IND0260/CALL-2.**	3,50,000/-

Calendar of events: 1) Pre-Bid Meetings (Zoom): **17.03.2025** for **Sl.no.1 at 10.30 am, Sl.no.2 at 11.00 am. 2)** Last date for receipt of tender: **29.03.2025 at 4.00 P.M. 3)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **01.04.2025 at 10.00 A.M**

For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP portal.

Sd/- Senior Manager (Materials)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

A BG-BGE

MOSCOW

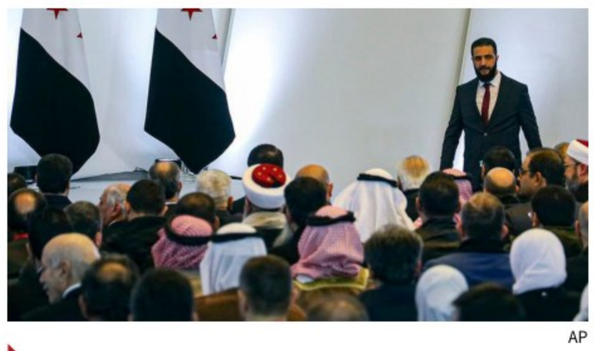
Kremlin eyes potential for working with U.S. on rare earth minerals

AP

The Kremlin said it sees potential for cooperation with the U.S. on developing Russia's large reserves of rare earth minerals. President Vladimir Putin said Russia is ready to work with "foreign partners including Americans" to develop such reserves in Russia and its "new territories", referring to areas it has occupied in Ukraine. AFP

DAMASCUS

Syria leader vows state 'monopoly' on weapons at post-Assad meeting



AP

Syria's interim President Muhammad al-Jolani pledged to ensure a state monopoly on weapons at a national dialogue conference, saying his country was at a "new historic phase" after Bashar al-Assad's overthrow. Hundreds of people are attending the conference at the presidential palace in Damascus. AFP

JAKARTA

Russia and Indonesia hold talks to develop ties on defence, security

AFP

Top Russian security official Sergei Shoigu held talks in Indonesia with President Prabowo Subianto and his Defence Minister, as Moscow and Jakarta seek to boost defence ties. Southeast Asia's biggest economy maintains a neutral foreign policy, refusing to take sides in the Ukraine conflict or between the U.S. and China. AFP

DHAKA

Bangladesh and Pakistan begin direct trade with import of rice

GETTY IMAGES

Bangladesh and Pakistan have started direct government-to-government trade after decades of troubled relations with imports of 50,000 tonnes of rice, Dhaka said on Tuesday. The two countries were once one nation but split in a brutal 1971 war, with Bangladesh drawing closer to India. AFP

Ukraine peace cannot mean 'surrender', says Macron

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

French President Emmanuel Macron warned on Monday that peace cannot mean the "surrender" of Ukraine, but said talks with U.S. President Donald Trump had shown a path forward despite fears of a transatlantic rift.

Meeting at the White House on the third anniversary of Russia's invasion, the two leaders said there was progress on the idea of sending peacekeepers to Ukraine, although Mr. Macron insisted on U.S. security guarantees for Kyiv.

Their talks came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for peace "this year" as he met European leaders in Kyiv.

U.S. sides with Russia at UN, calls for a 'swift end' to war

The U.S.-backed UNSC resolution mourns loss of lives, reiterates that the UN's purpose is to maintain international peace and security, and urges a swift end to the 'Russia-Ukraine conflict'

Reuters
UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council on Monday adopted a U.S.-drafted resolution on the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine that takes a neutral position on the conflict as U.S. President Donald Trump seeks to broker peace.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia acknowledged "constructive changes" in the U.S. position on the conflict. He told the council the resolution was "not an ideal one," but "a starting point for future efforts towards peaceful settlement."

U-turn: Acting U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Dorothy Shea, told the Council the resolution put the world on the path to peace. REUTERS

The 15-member UN Security Council had been deadlocked throughout the war and unable to take any action because Russia holds a veto.

But the 193-member General Assembly has repeatedly supported Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and called for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in line with the UN Charter.

The resolution mourns the loss of life in the "Russia-Ukraine conflict", reiterates the UN's purpose is to maintain international peace and security and peacefully settle disputes, and urges a swift end to the conflict and a lasting peace.

The Security Council adopted the U.S. resolution with 10 votes in favour, while France, Britain, Denmark, Greece and Slovenia abstained. Russia voted in favour after failing to amend it. "This resolution puts us on the path to peace. It is a first step, but a crucial one – one of which we should all be proud," acting U.S. Ambassador to the UN Dorothy Shea told the Council.

U.K. to increase defence spending to 2.5% of GDP

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The raise would be financed in the short term by cuts to the U.K.'s international aid budget

The U.K. government will increase its defence spending to 2.5% of GDP during 2027 and maintain that level annually, up from the current level of 2.3%, Prime Minister Keir Starmer told the House of Commons on Tuesday.

The defence spending target will increase to 3% in the next parliament. Previously Mr. Starmer's Labour government had a target of 2.5% without a set timeline.

The timing of Mr. Starmer's announcement is significant as it comes just before his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday in Washington. Mr. Trump has pressured Europeans to spend more on defence in the context of the NATO military alliance. Mr. Trump has also repeatedly indicated that the U.S. will not be supporting Ukraine financially and militarily as it has in the past, as his administration directly negotiates with Moscow to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"I can announce that this government will begin the biggest sustained increase in defence spending since the end of the Cold War," Mr. Starmer said, emphasising that the new commitments meant an extra £13.4 billion on defence each year. The increases would be financed in the short term by cuts to the U.K.'s international aid budget, from 0.5% to 0.3% of GDP from 2027, Mr. Starmer said, adding that he was not happy to make that choice. "But at times like this, the defence and security of the British people must always come first."

"All European allies must step up and do more for our defence," he said, announcing that the U.K. will set a defence spending ambition of 3% of GDP in the next parliament (i.e., 2029-34), "subject to economic and fiscal conditions". NATO countries had previously agreed to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence but Mr. Trump has pushed them to raise that level to 5% while NATO's Secretary General has called for a target of more than 3%.

Bangladesh will fall apart if the police and armed forces are undermined: Army chief

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh's Army chief General Waker-uz-Zaman on Tuesday warned that the interim government should not undermine law and order machinery. Addressing a gathering of mostly military officials on the national martyrdom day, Gen. Zaman said Bangladesh will fall apart if the authority of the armed forces, police and other law enforcement agencies are "undermined".

"This nation's independence and sovereignty will be undermined if you can not stop the mudslinging and if you continue to kill and injure each other. I have no other aspirations. For the past seven to eight months, I have had enough," said Gen. Zaman. He was in charge of the government for few days after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left the country in August 2024 in the midst of mass protests. He, however, made way for the interim government led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Mohammad Yunus.

Waker-uz-Zaman

Since the formation of the Yunus-led interim government, much of the focus has been on the six commissions that were given the mandate to fix accountability for the alleged violence carried out by the police and paramilitary forces on order from the Awami League government. These commissions backed by the advisers in the government have often targeted the police and other law and order machinery in the country.

"Police, RAB, DGFI, BGB, NSI have done extremely important works for the country," Gen. Zaman said, referring to the law enforcement agencies. "Alongside negative things, they have done numerous good deeds. That is why we found a stable atmosphere in the country in the past."

The police and DGFI, the intelligence outfit of the country, were often seen in social media videos at the forefront of the crackdown against protesters during the uprising of July-August 2024. However, Gen. Zaman took a nuanced position and said, justice for the wrongdoers within the law enforcement agencies should be delivered "without undermining" them.

"Today the police is not working because there are a large number of cases against them. There is panic in RAB (Rapid Action Battallion) and NSI (National Security Intelligence). If you think that peace and discipline of the country can be maintained by undermining these organisations, that is not going to happen," said Gen. Zaman .

Dr. Yunus, said the top general, is trying to unite Bangladesh. "We are moving towards a free, fair and inclusive election and before that the government will do some reforms. I agree with Dr. Yunus that election should be held within December 2025."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to purchase **Site No.215,** presently bearing BBMP E Aasthy Property No.217 Site No.215/217, (E.P.I.D No.6739081464) measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet in all measuring **2400 Sq feet** or 223.08 Sq Mtrs, formed in Survey Numbers 115/1, 116 to 121, 122/1 & 2, 124/1, 3, 125 and 131/1, 3 of Kundalahalli Village, Survey Numbers 39 to 43 of Chinnappanahalli Village, KR Puram Hobli and Survey Numbers 8 and 73 of Tubarahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, formed by the Aircraft Employees Co-operative Society Ltd along with Building standing thereon and bounded on

East By : Site No. 214;
West By : Site No. 216;
North By : Road ;
South By : Site No. 300 and 301.

From its Owner **Mr. Mai Anandan, son of Mr.M A Royan.**

Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication to the undersigned.

Geetha Halliyal,
TAVISA LEGAL Advocates
42 High Street, No.775, 2nd Floor,
100 feet Road, Indiranagar,
Bangalore-560038, Ph : 9980519476
email : geethahalliyal@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client represents that the Original Sale Deed dated 01.01.1990, registered as Document No.5091/1989-90, at pages 61 to 62, Volume 8 of Book I before the office of the Sub-Registrar, K R Puram Bangalore, Allotment Letter, Possession Certificate dated 01.01.1990 and NOC issued by AECS Ltd in respect of Site No.215, presently bearing BBMP E Aasthy Property No.217 Site No.215/217, (E.P.I.D No.6739081464), measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet in all measuring 2400 Square feet or 223.08 Square Mtrs, formed in Survey Numbers 115/1, 116 to 121, 122/1 & 2, 124/1, 3, 125 and 131/1, 3 of Kundalahalli Village, Survey Numbers 39 to 43 of Chinnappanahalli Village, KR Puram Hobli and Survey Numbers 8 and 73 of Tubarahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, formed by the Aircraft Employees Co-operative Society Ltd, has been lost/ misplaced and not mortgaged/ pledged.

We have also lodged a police complaint bearing **Lost Report No. 1445523/2025 on 24.01.2025**

Person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to the undersigned.

Geetha Halliyal,
TAVISA LEGAL Advocates
42 High Street, No.775, 2nd Floor,
100 feet Road, Indiranagar,
Bangalore-560038, Ph : 9980519476
email : geethahalliyal@gmail.com

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India Invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No.: SUR/L/T/2024/37R Name of work:** Provision of Air coolers over Solapur Division for 2 consecutive summer season of 2025 and 2026 (For 105 summer days in each year) (Re-invitation), **Estimated cost:** ₹ 68,51,235.30/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,37,000.00/- **Completion Period:** 24 Months **Validity of offer:** 60 Days **Date & time of tenders closing on website:** 18/03/2025 at 15.00 hours. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on **www.ireps.gov.in** website. **ANJ-36**

अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

My client **Mr. Sriram Chitlur Balasubramanyam** S/o Balasubramanyam intend to purchase the Immovable property being Agricultural Land measuring **5 Acres 39 Guntas of Hine Land in Sy No.66** situated at **Thondoty Village, Al D Halli Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka State.**

The joint owners of the agricultural land in **Sy No.66** are **1) Smt. Papamma** W/o Late Ashwattappa, **2) Narasegowda** S/o Late Ashwattappa, **3) Krishnappa** S/o Late Ashwattappa, **4) T A Narasimhamurthy** S/o Late Ashwattappa and **5) Jayaramappa** S/o Late Ashwattappa are the absolute owners and in peaceful possession of the land hereby affirm that the entirety of the property is free from all encumbrances, charges, litigation, or claims of any kind.

The owners further confirm that no existing sale agreements, either written or verbal, are in place for this land. Any person, institution, or interested party with adverse claims or disputes must communicate such claims to the undersigned ***within 15 days*** of this public notice. Failure to do so will result in the lawful presumption that my client and their nominees are free to proceed with the purchase of the property as bona fide buyers, without any legal hindrances, and no further claims will be entertained.

Issued on Instruction from My Client

SACHIN YALLARADDI, Advocate
#3A, 6th Cross, Chamundeshwari Layout,
Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560 097.
Mob: +91 9482102696
Place: Bengaluru Date:25-02-2025

Government of JHARKHAND
(Department of Forest, Environment & Climate Change)

TENDER NOTICE

RFP No. – 01/2025.....

Tender in two parts i.e. Technical (Part-I) and Financial (Part – II) is invited from reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound consultancy firm for the following works:

Name of Work	**Appointment of Consultancy Firm to assist PCCF (HoFF) Department of Forests, Environment and Climate Change Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi**
Period of Contract	24 Month extendable up to 36 months
Minimum average annual turnover during last, three years.	Rs. 30 Crore from consulting business in India.
Tender fee	Rs. 10,000.00 + 18% GST
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,30,400.00
Start Date & Time of Download the Tender, Documents	.....27.02.25..... at 03:00 PM
Date of Pre-bid meeting	.....03.03.25..... at 15:30 Hrs
Date of uploading of pre-bid queries	.....03.03.25..... at 15:30 Hrs
Start Date and time of Submission of BID	.....04.03.25..... at 17:00 Hrs
End date and time of Submission of BID	.....17.03.25..... at 17:00 Hrs
Submission of cost of BOQ and earnest money with hard copy of submitted bid	.....17.03.25..... at 17:00 Hrs
BID Opening date for technical part	.....18.03.25..... at 11:00 Hrs
BID Opening date for price part	Will be communicated 19.03.25
Procurement Officer and address for communication	Department of Forests, Environment and Climate Change Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834002
Contact No.	...8678835616...

1. Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website https://forest.jharkhand.gov.in. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned (APCCF, Development, Jharkhand Ranchi) during office hours.
2. The bids will be received at the office of Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Development, Jharkhand, Ranchi.
3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to submit their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

Sd/-
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Development, Jharkhand, Ranchi

PR 347263 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes(124-25)#D

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

SPECIALISED ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH-1

2nd Floor, C.O. Bldg. No.86, Spencer Towers, M G Road, Bangalore- 560 001.
Telefax: 080-25310066, E-Mail: cb2366canarabank.com

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **18/10/2021** calling upon the following borrower/directors/partners/guarantors : **Borrower/ Mortgagor: M/s. Kashyap Constructions Pvt Ltd Represented by its Directors (1) Santhosh L S (2) Sreeranga Raju L V (3) Bharathi B R (4) Vani M (5) Ashok Raj A (6) JoyeceMettleda (7) Venkateswara (8) Ravi Prasad J (9) Basavara Patel (10) J Sudhakar (11) Bhaskar J,** Regd Office : No. 216/1, 1st Floor, III Phase 100 FT Ring Road, BSK III Stage, Bangalore-560085 **Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor: (1) Santhosh L S, (2) Sreeranga Raju L V, (3) Bharathi B R, (4) Mrs. Vani M,** All are residing at : No. 537, Jyeshta, 3rd Main Road, Hosakerehalli Cross, BSK III Stage, Girinagar, Bangalore-560085 **(5) Mr. Ashok Raj A,** No **(6) Mrs. JocyeMettleda,** Both are residing at : No 8, 13th Cross, Ramesh Nagar, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037 **(7) Venkateswara Ravi Prasad J,** H No. 51/936-C,Opp New Bus Stand, Bellary Road, Kurnool-518001 **(8) Basavara Patel,** No. 32, Sankar 4th Cross,1st Main R K Garden, New BEL Road, Bangalore 560054. **(9) J. Gopal,** No. 51/92, Opp. New Bus Stand, Bellary Road, Kurnool 518001 **(10) Bhaskar J,** No. 51/913-A, Opp. New Bus Stand Bellary Road Kurnool 518001 **(11) Mr J Sudhakar** S/o Juturu Chinna Seshaiah Shetty, No 51/1967-A7 Illuru Nagar, Kurnool 518001. **M/s Kashyap Constructions Pvt Ltd** through its Authorized office No. 216/1, I Floor, III Phase 100 FT Ring Road, BSK III Stage, Bangalore-560085 and its directors/ partners/ guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.78,58,92,113.39** (Rupees Seventy Eight Crores Fifty Eight Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand One Hundred Thirteen and Thirty Nine Paise Only) is due along with interest and costs etc within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the balance amount, due under the said demand notice, with up to date interest, Notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the entire Mortgaged property/ies described herein below, with all the constructions thereon, in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8&9 of the said Rule on this **21st Febuary 2025.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of **Rs.47,88,39,718.75** (Rupees Forty Seven Crores Eighty Eight Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Eighteen and Seventy Five Paise Only) along with interest from **18th October 2021** and costs and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the movables/immovable Properties:

Name of Title Holder : Standing in the joint names of Sri.J Gopal, Sri.J Bhaskar, Sri.J Sudhakar and Sri.J Venkateswara Ravi Prasad.

Immovable : EMT of commercial building at No 51/939 A in Sy nos. 403/2A3, 404B/2C & 404/A3, 51st ward. Opp. New APSRTS Bus stand, Bellary Road, Kurnool. (Extent Ground floor: 4016 Sft. First floor: 4690Sft.)

Date : 21.02.2025
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

Banu Mushtaq on Booker Prize longlist

Press Trust of India
LONDON

Karnataka-based writer, activist and lawyer Banu Mushtaq's short story collection *Heart Lamp*, translated from Kannada to English by Deepa Bhasthi, was on Tuesday longlisted for the International Booker Prize 2025 in London.

Chosen among 13 titles, Mushtaq's work appealed to the judges for its "witty, vivid, colloquial, and excoriating" style of capturing portraits of family and community tensions. It marks the first time a Kannada title has made it to the longlist of the £50,000 prize – divided between author and translator.

Banu Mushtaq

Its 12 stories set in the Muslim communities of southern India and published between 1990 and 2023 will now go head-to-head with authors from across the world.

Musk gives 'second chance' for govt. staff

Reuters
WASHINGTON

A defiant threat by Elon Musk warning that federal employees will be given "a second chance" to respond to his email asking them to justify their jobs or risk termination is likely to spark another round of confusion across the U.S. government on Tuesday.

Mr. Musk's warning came after Trump administration officials told federal workers they did not have to respond to his weekend email that demanded they summarise their accomplishments of the past week. Failure to reply would be considered a resignation, Mr. Musk said.

But while some federal agencies such as the U.S. Treasury Department told their workers to comply with the request, others like the Pentagon did not. As Mr. Musk's Monday midnight deadline approached, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management told agencies their workers could ignore the email.

Mr. Musk's actions and the pushback he saw from federal agencies cracked open new fissures within Mr. Trump's nascent administration and raised questions about the limits of Mr. Musk's authority.

ABANDONED

Rain plays spoilsport as Australia and South Africa share points

REUTERS

Relentless rain led to the abandonment of the Champions Trophy group stage fixture between Australia and South Africa at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. The teams will share a point each, making Wednesday's England vs Afghanistan encounter a virtual knockout, with the losing side set to be eliminated.

SHOT IN THE ARM

Rachin's superb show on return pleases Black Caps coach Stead

AP

New Zealand head coach Gary Stead was pleased with how Rachin Ravindra returned after a freak injury and hit the ground running, scoring a century against Bangladesh in the Champions Trophy. "It's nice the way he just slots back in. It was nice to see Rachin get a catch under a high ball, which was probably good for his confidence."

CUT ABOVE THE REST

Atherton, Hussain rate Kohli as the best ODI player of all time

ANI

Former England captains Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain believe Virat Kohli is probably the best batsman ever in ODIs. "Virat Kohli in a run-chase in 50-over cricket, there's been nobody better in the history of the game," said Atherton. Hussain remarked, "He's been incredible. You'd have to say probably the best in ODIs of all time."

TOUGH TALK

Pakistan will find it hard to beat a second-string Indian team: Gavaskar

PTI

Cricket great Sunil Gavaskar said that Pakistan would struggle to beat even a second-string Indian team . "I think a B team (from India) certainly (can give Pakistan a run for their money). C team, I am not too sure. But a B team will be very, very hard to beat for Pakistan in their current form," Gavaskar said on 'Sports Today'.

Pakistan needs a bold new approach to redeem itself

Lack of batting depth and bizarre tactics lead to the defending champion's early exit, the latest instance of the Men in Green failing to qualify for the semifinals of an ICC ODI event

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

Bitter lesson: Pakistan paid the price for fielding mistakes and a rather timid batting show. AP

The stage was set perfectly for Pakistan. The country was hosting its first ICC tournament since the 1996 World Cup and was the defending champion. Yet, six days into the event, Mohammad Rizwan's men's campaign came to a shuddering halt.

While injuries to Saim Ayub (in the lead-up) and Fakhar Zaman (in the first match) weakened the line-up, those were not the only reasons for the early exit.

The losses to New Zealand and India had a predictable pattern as the batters' timid approach proved costly. Chasing 321 against the Kiwis, the home side crawled to 22 for two in the PowerPlay and could never recover.

Despite a better start against the Men in Blue, the team got bogged down in the middle. Trying to accelerate, Pakistan lost wickets in clusters and finished with a modest total. The Men in Green's dot-ball percentage was more than 50 (162 and 152 dot balls, respectively), and they couldn't compensate with boundaries.

The squad lacks batting depth, and barring players like Salman Ali Agha and Fakhar, the others don't have the ability to go big. The selection calls, too, defied logic. The decision to draft in Imam-ul-Haq, not part of the original contingent, instead of Usman Khan for the India match reflected the muddled thinking. The latter, who is in the 15, is yet to make his ODI debut.

The chatter ahead of the must-win game against its neighbour veered around how the team had always conjured up something special in a do-or-die situation, the halcyon days of the 1990s a glowing example. The comparison is tenuous, considering the depth of the current squad and also projected the mindset of a country stuck in a time warp.

Over the last decade, England has refashioned the way ODI cricket is played; the others, including India, have learnt from and adapted it to their style. Unfortunately, Pakistan has failed to change or progress with time, a fear of failure gripping the players. Even Rizwan acknowledged that his men lacked courage.

More worryingly, the outfit has also been left behind in areas like fitness and fielding. This was evident during Pakistan's practice session two days before the high-profile contest. The session lacked the intensity one typically witnesses when giants such as India, England, and Australia prepare. Dropping catches during training is not a big deal, but missing simple chances means trouble.

On Sunday, Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer were beneficiaries of clumsy fielding efforts as they were put down early in their innings and made the 'host' pay.

Since its 2017 Champions Trophy triumph, Pakistan has not qualified for the knockout stages of a major ODI competition (2019, 2023 World Cup, and 2025 Champions Trophy). Only a complete overhaul of the system and a bold new approach can redeem the former world champion.

The last nail: Giants' innings never took off and ended when Meghna was bowled for a golden duck. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Shafali, Jonassen and bowlers fire Capitals to top of the table

WPL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Delhi Capitals (DC) moved to the top of the Women's Premier League points table with a comfortable six-wicket win over Gujarat Giants (GG) at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Tuesday.

DC (six points) recorded a third win in five outings, while GG (two points) stayed in bottom position.

After a disciplined bowling show restricted GG to 127 for nine, DC rode on good knocks from Shafali Verma (44, 27b, 5x4, 3x6) and Jess Jonassen (61 n.o., 32b, 9x4, 2x6) to romp home in 15.1 overs.

Shafali and Jonassen came together in the fourth over, after captain Meg Lanning lost her stumps to Kashvee Gautam.

With a healthy dose of strokeplay, Shafali and Jonassen kept DC well ahead of the curve. When Shafali departed to off-spinner Ashleigh Gardner, DC was left with 40 runs to get off 62 balls.

Jonassen kept the foot on the gas to complete the job.

Fighting knock

Earlier, a fine fighting unbeaten 40 from Bharti Fulmali took GG to a respectable score. Gujarat was in danger of folding for a sub-100 total, when a collapse reduced the side to 60 for six. Fulmali, who came in at No.8, and Tanuja Kanwar (16, 24b, 1x4) came to GG's rescue with a 51-run stand.

Fulmali started slowly, before taking the aggressive route against spinners Minnu Mani and Jonassen.

Tanuja fell in the 18th over, sacrificing her wicket to a run-out to keep Fulmali alive. Fulmali, however, did not receive much strike in the death overs, as the tailenders struggled to put bat on ball.

West Indian Deandra Dottin (26, 24b, 5x4) looked in good form, but a sharp indipper from Annabel Sutherland struck the fatal blow.

Experienced South African Marizanne Kapp did well with the new ball, taking out Harleen Deol and Phoebe Litchfield by building the pressure.

Fellow pacer Shikha Pandey kept up the good work done by Kapp, prising out Beth Mooney and Kashvee off successive deliveries.

The scores: Gujarat Giants 127/9 in 20 overs (Deandra Dottin 26, Bharti Fulmali 40 n.o., Shikha Pandey 2/18, Marizanne Kapp 2/17, Annabel Sutherland 2/20) lost to Delhi Capitals 131/4 in 15.1 overs (Shafali Verma 44, Jess Jonassen 61 n.o., Kashvee Gautam 2/26).

Toss: Delhi Capitals.

PoM: Jonassen.

Wednesday's match: Mumbai Indians vs UP Warriorz, 7.30 p.m.

Indian women bring down the Dutch in shootout; Harmanpreet stars for men

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

The hero: The Indian players rush to congratulate Savita after the memorable win. BISWARANJAN ROUT

As Pien Dicke lined up for the Netherlands' final shot on Tuesday, an impromptu chant of 'Savita, Savita' started from one end of the Kalinga Stadium, gradually moving through the crowds and getting faster, reaching a crescendo with the Indian goalkeeper, in her 301st international match, denying the Dutchwoman, bringing off her fourth save in the shootout and shutting the doors on the opposition for India's 2-1 win in its final FIH Pro League match at home, a result as unexpected as deserving.

On Tuesday, the Dutch lost only their third match since the beginning of 2024 – all coming in Pro League – and India won only its third game ever against them. The gap between the two sides, both in terms of rankings and results, was too huge.

On the turf, however, it hardly looked so. Jyoti Singh, the 20-year old making her debut in the tournament, barely flinched at the Dutch attacks. Sunelita Toppo, more than a foot shorter than her counterparts Rosa Fernig and Felice Albers, wove, ducked and dodged her way to the front to cut short their momentum.

Laremsiami and Salima Tete kept running hard and feeding forward and at the back, Vaishnavi Phalke and Udita were kept busy. And then there was Savita Punia. For the first 30 minutes, it looked like the game would not move out of the Indian half. The Netherlands had six penalty corners and same number of shots at goal from open play.

Pien Sanders perfectly positioned to deflect a PC variation and Fay van der Elst made it 2-0 in the 28th. And then the Indians came out, determined to prove the Dutch weren't as invincible as they thought.

In the 35th minute, Deepika got one of those passes near the dotted line, got in and lifted into the net.

Eight minutes later, Sharmila's controlled pass from the backline was tapped into the narrowest of gaps by Baljeet to draw level.

Deepika and Mumtaz then converted in the shootouts while only Marijn Veen was successful for the Netherlands.

The Indian men, meanwhile, bounced back to defeat England 2-1. Harmanpreet Singh converted two of the three PCs the home team earned.

The results:

Men: Germany 4 (Erik Kleinlein 21, Thies Prinz 29, Malte Hellwig 49, 57) bt Ireland 2 (Matthew Nelson 14, Ben Nelson 26); India 2 (Harmanpreet Singh 26, 32) bt England 1 (Conor Williamson 30).

Women: India 2 (Deepika 35, Baljeet Kaur 43) drew with the Netherlands 2 (Pien Sanders 17, Fay van der Elst 28). India won 2-1 in shootout.

Bheke seals BFC's playoff berth and CFC's elimination

ISL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Making a difference: Bheke's goal in the first half was enough for BFC to walk away with the three points. K. MURALI KUMAR

Rahul Bheke's 37th-minute strike helped Bengaluru FC notch up a narrow 1-0 win over Chennaiyin FC and seal an Indian Super League playoffs berth at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Tuesday.

After Ryan Williams was needlessly fouled by D. Vignesh, the Aussie sent a superb delivery from the resulting set-piece. Defender Bheke, unmarked and free, made a well-disguised run at the far post to bury the ball in with flourish.

The result sent BFC third in the table (22 matches, 37 points) – a position it will want to retain, for finishing third or fourth will ensure that the single-legged playoffs match will be at home.

On the other hand, Owen Coyle's Chennaiyin stands eliminated from the race.

Interestingly, despite not being the better team, Chennaiyin could have walked away with full points, but for forwards Wilmar Jordan Gil and Daniel Chima Chukwu's profligacy. The former missed a free-header from point-blank range on the stroke of half-time while the latter sent the ball wide from six yards out on 83 minutes.

But for those nervy moments, BFC boss Gerard Zaragoza should be happy. There were flowing moves and slick passing manoeuvres among the front three of Alberto Noguera, Williams and Edgar Mendez. The defence was resolute too, with Chinglensana Singh and Namgyal Bhutia making a couple of last-ditch clearances.

A minor irritant on an otherwise happy evening will be about how the host invited pressure until the very end and did not see the game out with confidence. But with a top-six berth confirmed, it's a worry for another day.

The result: Bengaluru FC 1 (Bheke 37) bt Chennaiyin FC 0.

INBRIEF

Roma's run continues; Mallorca salvages a draw

Mallorca scored a dramatic stoppage-time equaliser at Sevilla to salvage a 1-1 draw in LaLiga on Monday. The result moved both teams up the table, Mallorca to eighth, and Sevilla to 11th. Meanwhile, Roma beat last-placed Monza 4-0 to extend its unbeaten Serie A run to 10 games and deepen the Lombardy club's already serious relegation fears. The win will delight Roma coach Claudio Ranieri, who has watched his charges put together the best run of form in the league in 2025.

The results: LaLiga: Sevilla 1 (Salas 45+1) drew with Mallorca 1 (Valjent 90+1).
Serie A: Roma 4 (Saelemaekers 10, Shomurodov 32, Angelino 73, Cristante 88) bt Monza 0.

Chenai and Mairaj for Nicosia shotgun World Cup

Olympians Kynan Chenai and Mairaj Ahmad Khan spearhead the Indian trap and skeet teams for the Shotgun World Cup to be staged in Nicosia (Cyprus) from May 3 to 12.

Vidarbha starts favourite against a high-flying Kerala in summit clash

The home team looks a very balanced outfit while Baby's men have shown great fighting spirit in making it to their maiden final

RANJI TROPHY

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NAGPUR

Far from the madding crowd lies the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium.

It is the last stop for a maddeningly thrilling journey for Kerala in India's premier domestic cricket tournament.

An 81-run partnership by the last pair against Jammu & Kashmir that gave a one-run first-innings lead in the quarterfinal; a two-run lead, courtesy a helmet worn by a close-in fielder, in the semifinal. And both those encounters were decided by the first innings.

You could argue that Sachin Baby's men have been lucky. But, they have earned that luck.

They have played with a lot of pluck this season to make it to the final of the Ranji Trophy for the first time in history. They may not mind starting as the underdog against Vidarbha in the final starting on Wednesday.

Raring to go: Kerala players during a training session ahead of the final. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vidarbha has played some great cricket this season. The home team reached its fourth final in seven years after beating Tamil Nadu and Mumbai outright in the knock-out fixtures.

That was after topping the group winning six of its seven games and taking the first-innings lead in the remaining one.

Vidarbha looks a very balanced side, has quite a few players in form, and is going to play its third match in a row at home. The host should be hoping Yash Rathod continues with his dream run with the bat and Harsh Dubey his with the ball.

Rathod has amassed 933 runs, with five centuries, while Dubey has claimed 66 wickets, with seven five-wicket hauls. Skipper and keeper Akshay Wadkar (674) and the born-again Karun Nair (642) have been among the runs, too.

Standout batters
Salman Nizar and Mohammed Azharuddeen have been the standout batters for Kerala, both scoring in excess of 600 and averaging 86.71 and 75.12 respectively. Seasoned spinners Jalaj Saxena and Aditya Sarwate have taken 68 wickets between them.

And Sarwate was playing for Vidarbha till last season. That should be another interesting subplot.

The teams (from):
Vidarbha: Akshay Wadkar (Capt.), Atharva Taide, Dhruv Shorey, Parth Rekhade, Danish Malewar, Karun Nair, Yash Rathod, Harsh Dubey, Nachiket Bhute, Yash Thakur, Aditya Thakare, Darshan Nalkande, Aman Mokhade, Akshay Karnewar, Yash Kadam, Akshay Wakhare and Siddhesh Wath.
Kerala: Sachin Baby (Capt.), Rohan Kunnummal, Akshay Chandran, Jalaj Saxena, Mohammed Azharuddeen, Salman Nizar, Ahammed Imran, Shoun Roger, Aditya Sarwate, M.D. Nidheesh, N.P. Basil, Varun Nayanar, Basil Thampi, Anand Krishnan, Sreehari S. Nair, N.M. Sharafuddeen and Eden Apple Tom.

Karun hopes to continue rich vein of form in final

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NAGPUR

Karun Nair has perhaps known the glorious uncertainties of cricket, and life, more than most players.

He scored a triple hundred in only his third Test, was dropped for the next (because he had only stepped in for an injured Ajinkya Rahane).

Karun has been consistency personified this season. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Tough times
He played three more Tests before he was discarded, back in 2017.

Then he was dropped from all the Karnataka teams in 2022, prompting to write that famous, heartbreaking tweet of his, "Dear cricket, give me one more chance."

Cricket did.

Karun has made the best out of it.

He even staked a claim for a place in the Indian squad for the ongoing Champions Trophy with an unreal show at the Vijay Hazare Trophy for Vidarbha, with scores of 112 not out, 44 not out, 163 not out, 111 not out, 112, 122 not out, 88 not out in successive innings. He finished the tournament with 779 runs at an average of 389.50.

Making a statement
Now, the 33-year-old wants to make another statement, that too in the biggest match in the domestic calendar – the Ranji Trophy final.

Interestingly, Vidarbha's opponent is Kerala, the State where Karun is originally from and the team that he had expressed an interest to play after the snub from Karnataka.

Consistency
"I have made sure this season that I have been more consistent and whenever I have got the opportunity to score big, I have fortunately done that," said Karun.

"And another opportunity awaits me in this match and I hope to contribute to the team again."

Third innings
He believes his time with Northamptonshire in English county cricket has helped him greatly in what he calls the third innings of his career.

"It has helped me understand my game more, to understand different ways of playing," he said.

"In England, you get to play 90 overs of swing or seam bowling on a day. I have taken that confidence to India".

BFI elections to be held by April-end

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA)-appointed ad-hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on Tuesday decided to conduct the BFI elections by the end of April. In its first meeting, the committee headed by Madhu Kant Pathak decided to validate the State units of the BFI before appointing a returning officer to initiate the proceedings for the elections, which were due on Feb.2.

The panel also decided that "trials would be conducted for any future international events" so that the "athletes do not suffer due to administrative issues."

Former elite boxers may be requested to serve as selectors of these trials.

Challenge
Meanwhile, the Ajay Singh-headed BFI began the process to challenge the IOA order which replaced the present body with an ad-hoc committee.

IOA treasurer Sahdev Yadav wrote to president P.T. Usha, expressing his objection to her 'arbitrary' decision to appoint an ad-hoc panel without discussing it with the Olympic body's Executive Committee.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (final), day 1, JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Champions Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 2.30 p.m.
WPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 1 a.m. (Thursday)

Bengaluru Open: Indians fall by the wayside again

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The hopes of a feel-good story in Indian men's singles tennis were extinguished on Tuesday at the Bengaluru Open as Ramkumar Ramanathan, Karan Singh and Manas Dhamne all lost their first-round matches at the KSLTA courts here.

The defeats meant that only one Indian player - Mukund Sasikumar - out of the six who competed in the singles main draws across four ATP Challengers in Chennai, Delhi, Pune and Bengaluru this month won a match. The collective win-loss record was a lowly 1-13.

Karan Singh, 21, and the teenaged Manas Dhamne tried their utmost to dispel the gloom but fell over three agonising sets.

Karan matched Austria's Jurij Rodionov shot-for-shot. But from being 3-2 up in the deciding-set tie-break, he lost five straight points to bow out 4-6, 6-4, 6-7(3).

Stellar win: Biryukov rallied to beat Dhamne. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Dhamne played admirably against the burly qualifier Petr Bar Biryukov.

Despite the match appearing to rest on Biryukov's racquet - the Russian was taller by over three inches and better by 379 ranking-places - the 17-year-old Indian, ranked 774, charmed the crowd with some fine stroke-making and spirited defence.

He also displayed nerves of steel, holding serve at 4-5 and 5-6 in the third set to stay in the contest. But Biryukov's murderous serve - he served 14 aces to his opponent's zero - ultimately proved the difference in the tie-break as Dhamne double-faulted on match-point. Former World No. 17 from Australian Bernard Tomic, combustible even on the best of days, held it together to beat Russia's Ilia Simakin 3-6, 7-6(4), 6-4. There was also a defeat for top-seed Vit Kopriva, beaten by his Czech compatriot Hynek Barton 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Select results (first round, Indians unless specified): Petr Bar Biryukov (Rus) bt Manas Dhamne 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(3); Jurij Rodionov (Aut) bt Karan Singh 6-4, 4-6, 7-6(3); Shintaro Mochizuki (Jpn) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-6(3), 7-5; Tristan Schoolkate (Aus) bt Khumoyun Sultanov (Uzb) 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-3; James McCabe (Aus) bt Kyrian Jacquet (Fra) 6-7(8), 6-1, 6-2.

Kerala's Kelappan Thampuran and the birth of the one-day game

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

As a schoolboy, when I visited grandparents in Kerala, there was a running joke provoked by my love for cricket. Relatives would tell me with much merriment that cricket was a game played by royalty and madmen – "usually the same people," they added – and berate me for not playing football or volleyball.

Most relatives were converted in the 1980s, when television brought cricket into their homes. Like the mathematician G.H. Hardy who said that even if he lay dying he would still want to hear the cricket scores, my grandmother expressed just such a wish. That was startling. She had become a fan of Ravi Shastri, which was as dramatic a turnaround as you could imagine.

Perhaps television played the key role in spreading the game in one of India's few regions where traditionally cricket was looked down upon.

But long before that, Kerala's contribution to cricket had been well established. A Kerala player and later secretary of the association, K.V. Kelappan Thampuran, had invented the 50-over game in 1951. This was the Pooja All-India tournament, a decade before the Midlands Knockout Cup was played in England and 12 years before the Gillette Cup there.

Kelappan is seldom given credit for his innovation even in India. He invented the popular format – which led to the World Cup and the current Champions Trophy – for a very practical reason. He wanted to run an all-India tournament in Tripunithra, a small town in Kochi, but there was not much time for the existing formats (three-day and two-day). It also meant "long breaks from family and work," in the words of Vishnu Kumar who has written about the tournament's origins.

Today, as Kerala plays the final of the Ranji Trophy for the first time ever, it is easy to forget how low down the pecking order their cricket had once been. Kerala were the whipping boys of the South Zone. Occasionally when they came close to upsetting rivals, the fact that they didn't know how to handle the situation allowed the opposition to regroup. Nothing succeeds like failure.

It meant that players from the region were never in the national reckoning no matter what they did although any success would have been, by definition, against superior teams. Among their best-known batters was Balan Pandit, whose 262 not out against Andhra was the highest individual score till Sreekumar Nair made an unbeaten 306 against Services in 2017.

In the mid-80s, skipper K. Jayaram scored four centuries in five Ranji matches, but didn't get to play in the Duleep Trophy.

Before the fast bowlers Tinu Yohanan and S. Sreesanth played for India, Kerala fans had to be content with those who had a parental connection with the State, like Ajay Jadeja or Robin Uthappa (whose mothers were from Kerala).

Or Sunil Valson and K.P. Bhaskar who were born elsewhere. Currently the talented Sanju Samson is in and out of India's white ball teams.

"This is Kerala's 1983 moment," leg spinner Ananthapadmanabhan said after Kerala's entry into the final. It was under his captaincy that Kerala first qualified for the knockout thirty years ago.

National call-up?
Will the successes of the two finalists lead to a national call-up for some leading performers? Vidarbha's Yash Rathod, 24, has made 933 runs this season with five centuries. Akshay Wadkar, 30, is in the Top Ten with 674 runs. Among Kerala's batters, Salman Nizar, 27, has 607 runs, and Mohammed Azharuddeen, 30, has 601.

Vidarbha's left arm spinner Harsh Dube,22, heads the wicket-taking list with 66 while Kerala veteran Jalaj Saxena is their leading bowler with 38.

I bring up the statistics merely to point out that for long India's international cricket has run on parallel lines with the domestic, not meeting at all till the cricket board's recent order that all internationals turn out in the Ranji Trophy. This, following a disastrous tour of Australia. How many of the finalists will find themselves in the national reckoning at a time when performances in the IPL seem to carry more weight will be watched with interest.

It is a sobering thought that India's most successful Test batter, Sachin Tendulkar, never played their most successful bowler Anil Kumble in the Ranji Trophy. Make of that what you will.

Mikimoto should win again in the Prayagraj Plate

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old filly Mikimoto, who is in good shape, should score an encore in the Prayagraj Plate, the main event of the concluding day's races of the Hyderabad Winter Races to be held here on Wednesday (Feb. 26).

1 TIME AND PLACE PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.15 p.m.: 1. Beast Master (6) P. Sai K 56, 2. American Affair (5) H.M. Akshay 54.5, 3. Calabasas (7) Akshay K 54.5, 4. Catch The Worm (3) A. Prakash 54.5, 5. Dashing Charm (4) Surya Prakash 54.5, 6. Foxy Girl (Kuldeep Sr.) 54.5, 7. Mystery Touch (8) Santosh Raj 54.5 and 8. Varada (1) Mukesh 54.5.
1. CALABASAS, 2. AMERICAN AFFAIR, 3. BEAST MASTER

2 PULWAMA PLATE (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.50: 1. Aquatone (1) P. Sai K 56, 2. Gold Giver (4) P. Ajeeth K 56, 3. Lake Michigan (2) A. Prakash 56, 4. Arabeska (6) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 5. Emerald Touch (3) Santosh Raj 54.5, 6. Faizah (7) H.M. Akshay 54.5, 7. Nijinsky Star (–) and 8. Pride Aside (5) Gaurav 54.5.
1. GOLD GIVER, 2. LAKE MICHIGAN, 3. AQUATONE

3 OSMAN SAGAR CUP (DIV. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), no whip, 2.25: 1. Hurricane Wave (6) Akshay K 60, 2. Lights On (1) Md. Ekram 57.5, 3. Classy Dame (8) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 4, In Proposito (2) A. Prakash 55.5, 5. Always Special (3) Kuldeep Jr. 53, 6. Golden Inzio (4) Santosh Raj 53, 7. Cherish The Lady (7) G. Naresh 52, 8. If You Like It (9) Mukesh 51.5 and 9. Dhanadeepa (5) B. Nikhil 51.
1. CLASSY DAME, 2. HURRICANE WAVE, 3. LIGHTS ON

4 TRIVENI SANGAM PLATE (1,200m) Maiden, 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.00: 1. Eminency (1) Md. Ekram 60, 2. Dream To Fly (2) G. Naresh 58, 3. Peanut (3) Mukesh 58, 4. Bold Indian (10) Deepak 57, 5. Kantha (9) B. Nikhil 57, 6. Total Control (6) H.M. Akshay 57, 7. Golden Unicorn (4) P. Sai K 55, 8. Noorian (8) B.R. Kumar 55, 9. Iconic Star (5) Surya Prakash 54 and 10. Jim (7) Uday Kiran 54.
1. PEANUT, 2. DREAM TO FLY, 3. GOLDEN UNICORN

5 TUNGABHADRA PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.35: 1. Miss Marvellous (–), 2. Shah Of Iran (–), 3. Sargent (H.M. Akshay) 59.5, 4. Federer (9) Deepak 58, 5. Skyward (8) Shivansh 58, 6. Caraxes (3) Mukesh 57, 7. Hawk Wing (6) R.S. Bhati 56.5, 8. Tiger Ruby (2) Uday Kiran 56.5, 9. Varaneek Gold (10) B.R. Kumar 56.5, 10. London Bell (5) R.S. Jodha 56, 11. Peppi (7) Ashad Asbar 55.5, 12. Take A Breath (11) P. Ajeeth K 52.5, 13. Jungle Girl (1) Gaurav 52 and 14. Rani Ruckus (12) G. Naresh 52.
1. VARANEEK GOLD, 2. SARGENT, 3. FEDERER

6 PRAYAGRAJ PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 4.10: 1. Lashka (8) Ashad Asbar 60, 2. Brooklyn Beauty (6) Shivansh 57.5, 3. Mikimoto (2) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 4. Golden Gazelle (5) Akshay K 54, 5. Fly Tothe Stars (3) Mukesh 52, 6. Detective (4) P. Sai K 51, 7. True Icon (7) Surya Prakash 51 and 8. First Class (1) B. Nikhil 50.5.
1. MIKIMOTO, 2. GOLDEN GAZELLE, 3. BROOKLYN BEAUTY

7 NARMADA PLATE (1,100m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.45: 1. Espionage (8) Kuldeep Sr. 61.5, 2. High Reward (4) R.S. Jodha 61, 3. Pontefract (5) Shivansh 60, 4. Warwick (2) Deepak 59, 5. Happy Soul (7) Surya Prakash 56.5, 6. Arion One (3) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Briar Ridge (10) Santosh Raj 53, 8. Inderdhanush (1) P. Sai K 52.5, 9. Mark My Day (9) Md. Ekram 52.5, 10. Classical Music (11) H.M. Akshay 50.5 and 11. Only The Brave (6) B. Nikhil 50.
1. ESPIONAGE, 2. ARION ONE, 3. CLASSICAL MUSIC

8 SUTLEJ PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5.15: 1. Exponent (3) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Lego (8) B.R. Kumar 60, 3. Master Touch (10) Mukesh 60, 4. Soorya Vahan (11) G. Naresh 60, 5. Una Paloma Blanca (5) Surya Prakash 60, 6. Hoping High (4) Gaurav 59.5, 7. Grey Sky (9) Md. Ekram 59, 8. Niloufer The Great (1) Deepak 58.5, 9. Reining Queen (2) Rafique Sk. 58.5, 10. Shubhrak (6) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 11. Silver Arrow (7) P. Sai K 56, 12. Deccan Ranger (13) Uday Kiran 55 and 13. Tupac (12) R.S. Bhati 54.
1. SILVER ARROW, 2. MASTER TOUCH, 3. UNA PALOMA BLANCA
Day's Best: **GOLD GIVER**
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.
Tanala: All races.